

WHY THE
HECK AM I
FOLLOWING
YOU INTO
THESE GOD-
FORSAKEN
MOUNTAINS,
ANYWAY!?

GLARE



COME ON,
SLOWPOKES.
HURRY UP OR
I'LL LEAVE
YOU BEHIND.



LEAVE
US
BEHIND...
?

...WHY...
?

WHEEZE
HUFF
PANT





Chapter 18: The Value of Sincerity



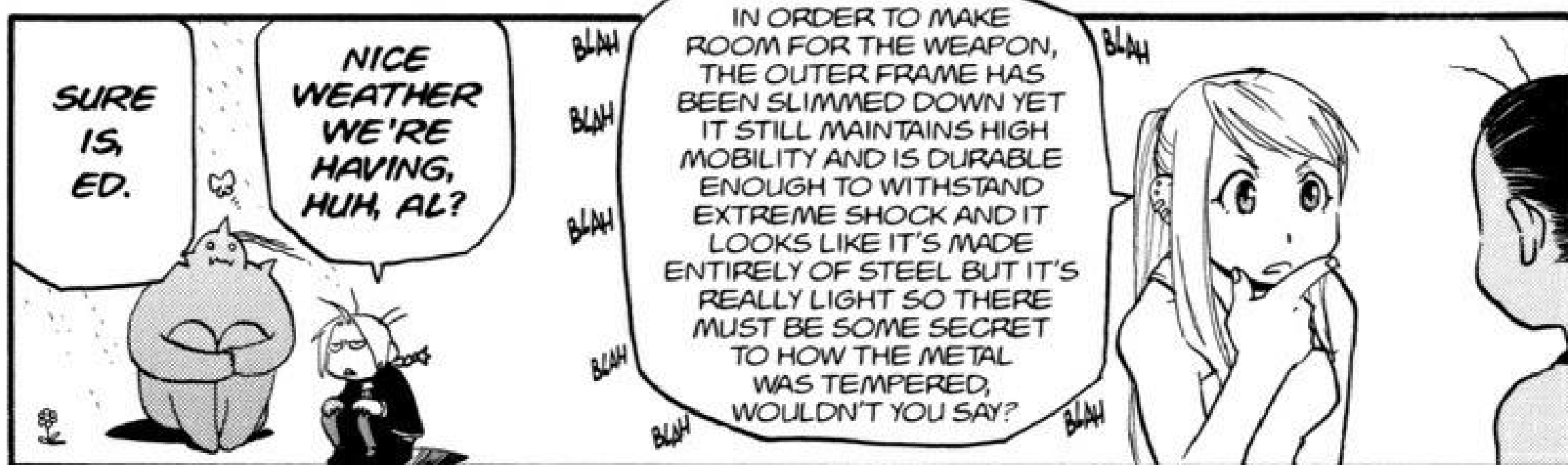


I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
AUTO-MAIL
LIKE THAT
BEFORE
!!

WOW!
IT'S
AMAZING!
JUST
AMAZING
!



THE SUSPENSION
SYSTEM IS THE MOST
ADVANCED I'VE EVER
SEEN, BUT IT'S THE
OVERALL BALANCE
THAT I FIND MOST
REMARKABLE.



SURE
IS,
ED.

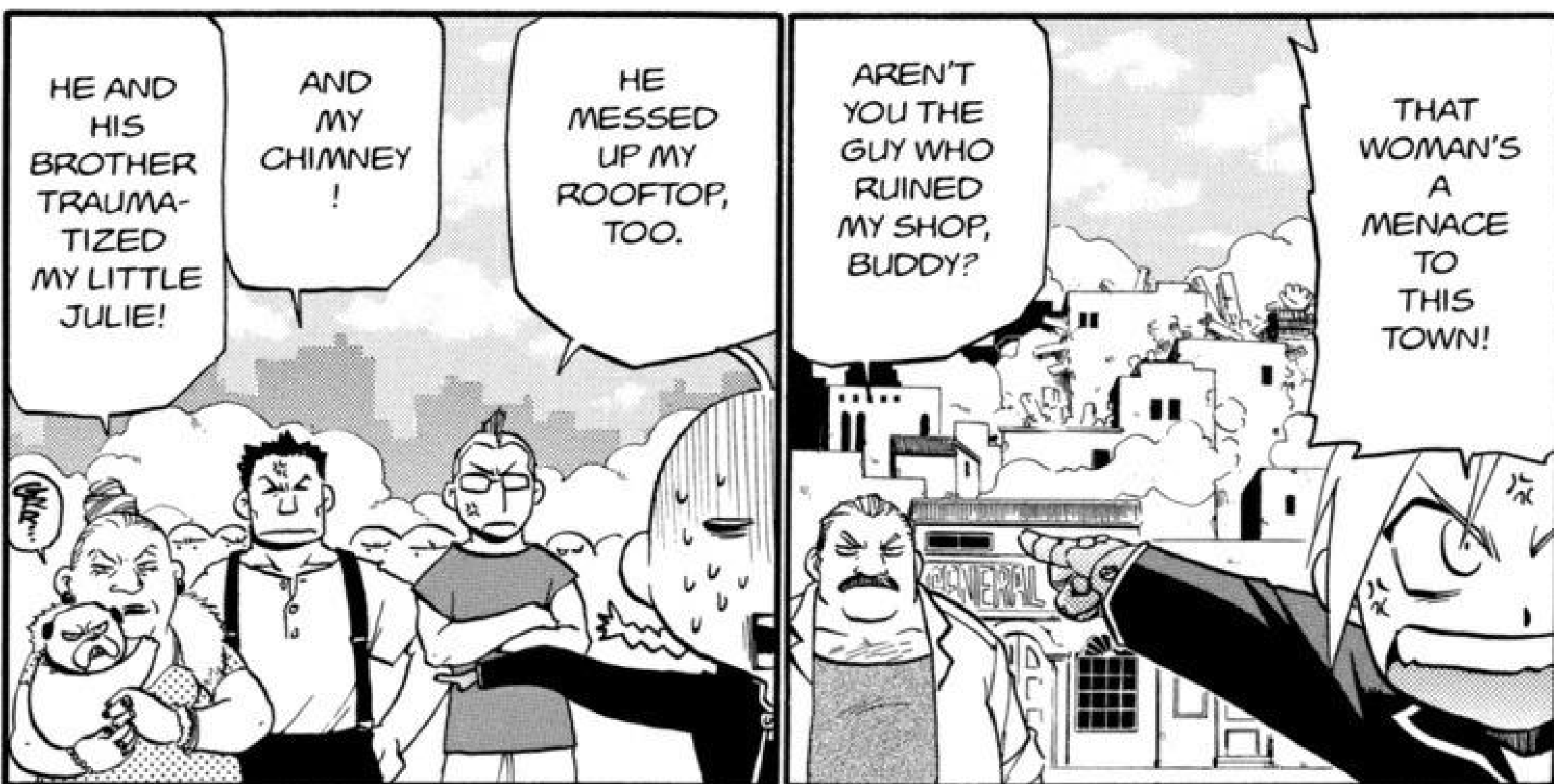
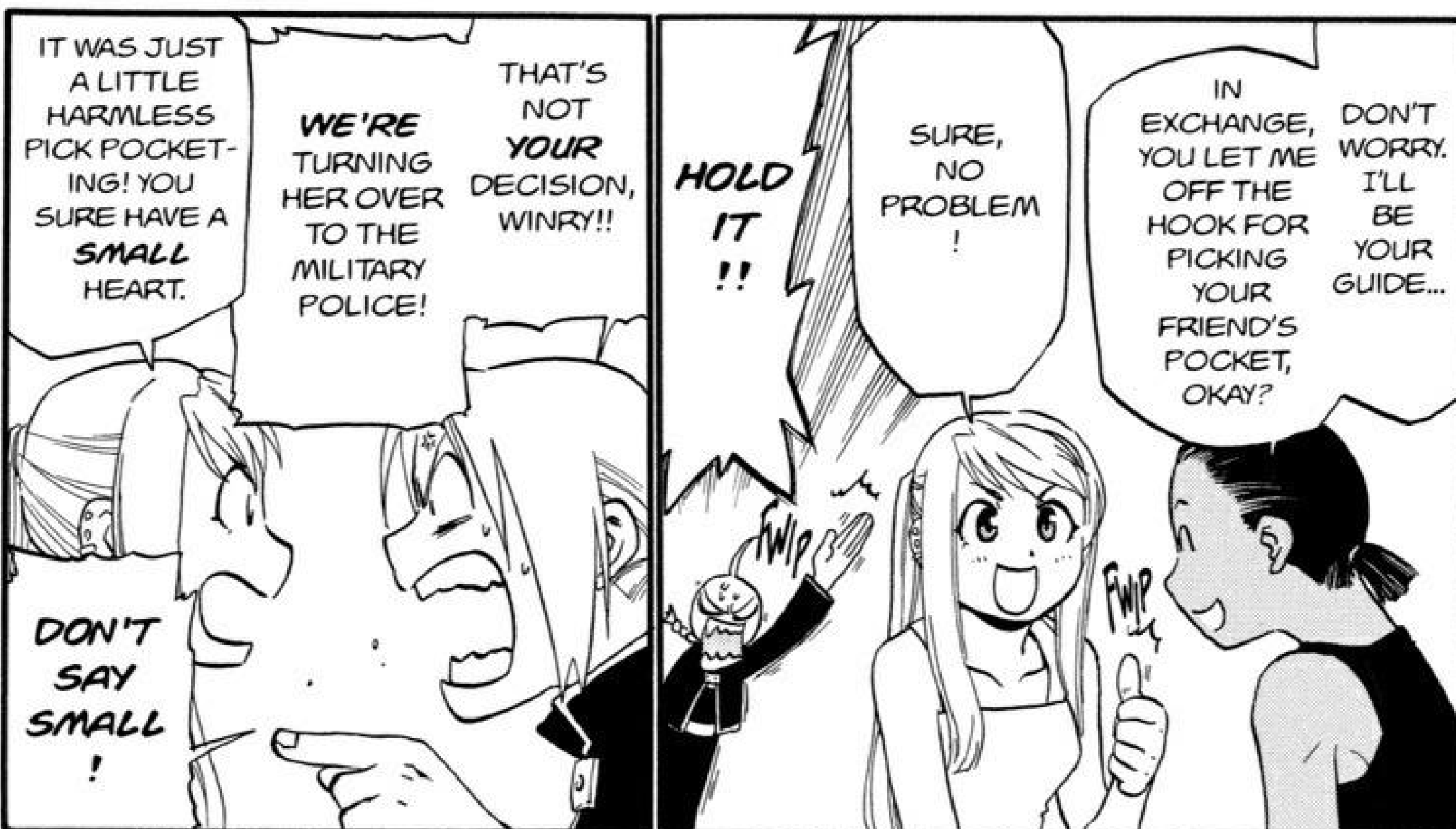
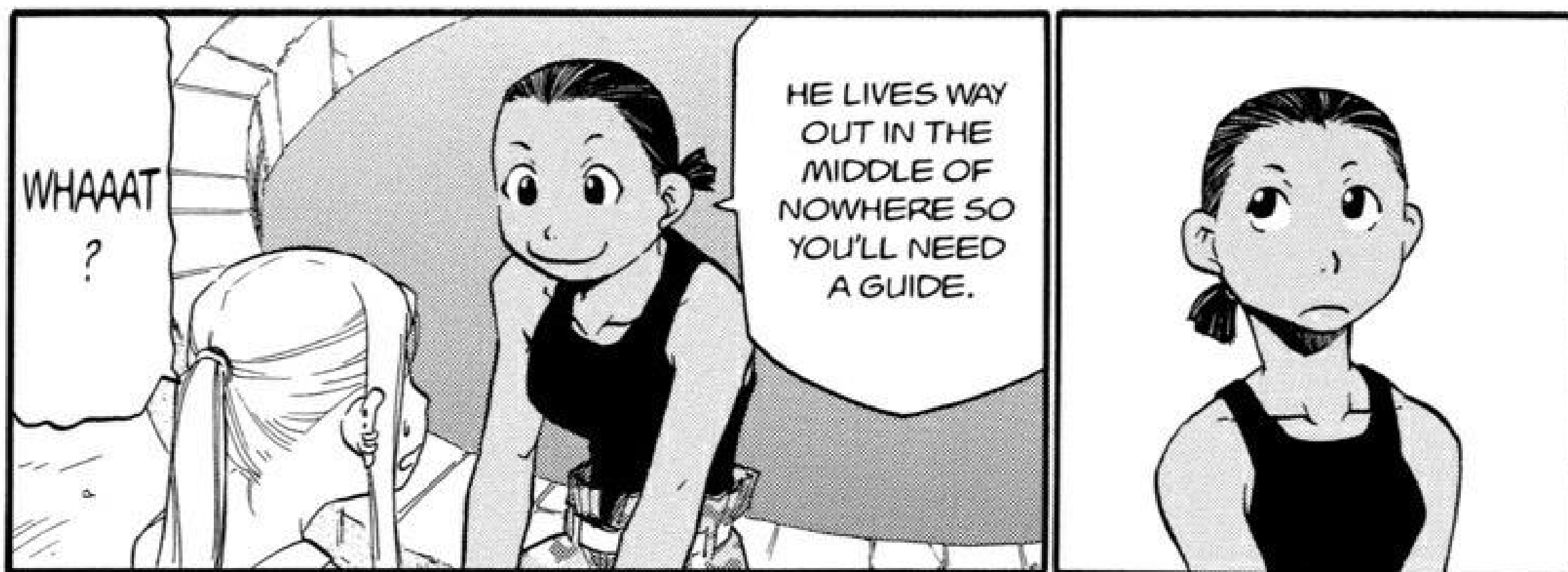
NICE
WEATHER
WE'RE
HAVING,
HUH, AL?

IN ORDER TO MAKE
ROOM FOR THE WEAPON,
THE OUTER FRAME HAS
BEEN SLIMMED DOWN YET
IT STILL MAINTAINS HIGH
MOBILITY AND IS DURABLE
ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND
EXTREME SHOCK AND IT
LOOKS LIKE IT'S MADE
ENTIRELY OF STEEL BUT IT'S
REALLY LIGHT SO THERE
MUST BE SOME SECRET
TO HOW THE METAL
WAS TEMPERED,
WOULDN'T YOU SAY?



HUH?
OKAY...

HEY, PANINYA!
YOU HAVE TO
TELL ME WHO
ENGINEERED
YOUR AUTO-
MAIL!





I'M STILL
GONNA TURN
HER OVER
TO THE MPS!
AND I'M
GONNA GET
MY WATCH
BACK!

THAT
CHANGES
NOTHING
!



REPAIRING
THE DAMAGE

SHUT
UP!!

BOW
WOW
WOW
!!

I AM
FIX-
ING
IT!

HURRY
UP AND
FIX IT,
YOU
LITTLE
BRAT!

FZZT



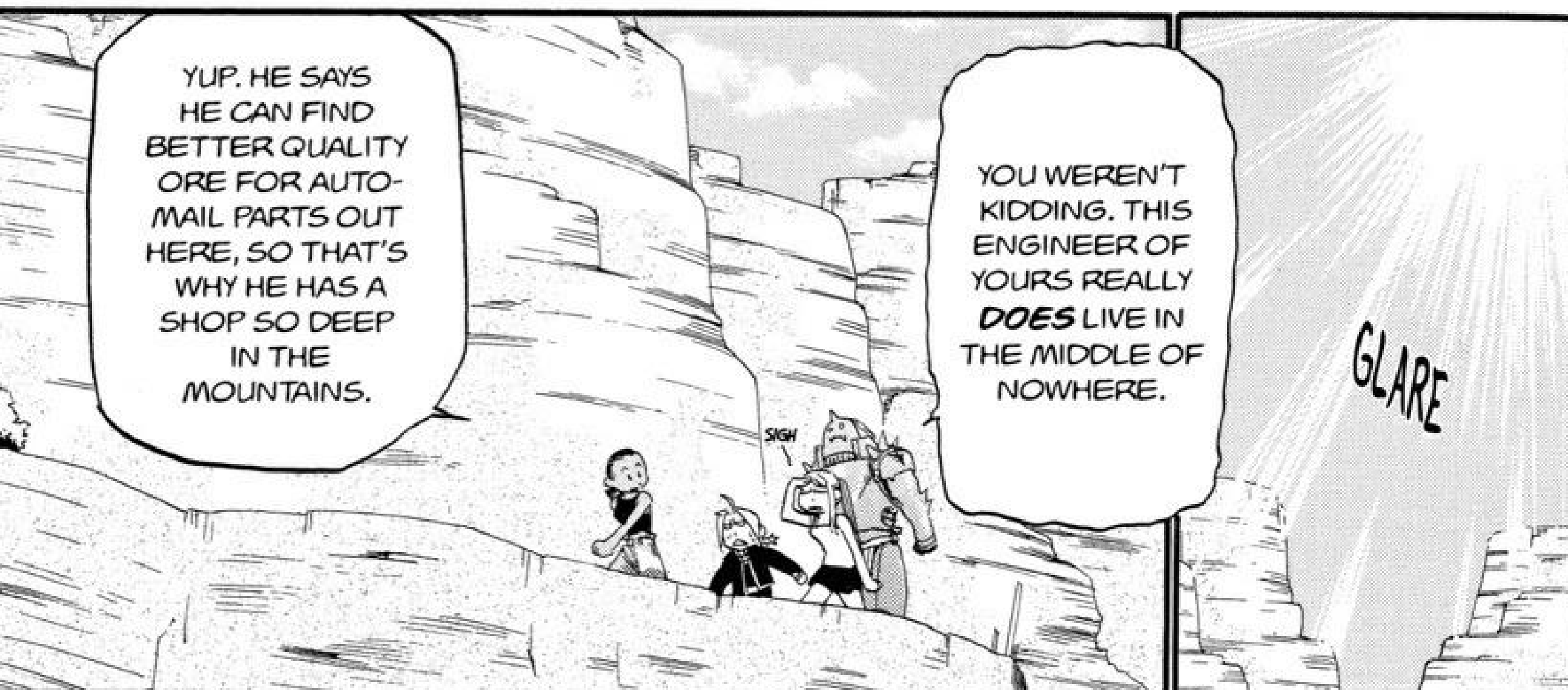
IT'S NO USE,
BIG BROTHER.
WHEN WINRY
GETS LIKE THIS,
THERE'S NO
STOPPING HER.

LISTEN
TO
ME
!!

THEN I
GUESS I
SHOULD
LEAVE OUR
LUGGAGE
AT OUR
LODGINGS
THEN?

IT'S PRETTY
DEEP IN THE
MOUNTAINS SO
YOU SHOULD
TRAVEL LIGHT.

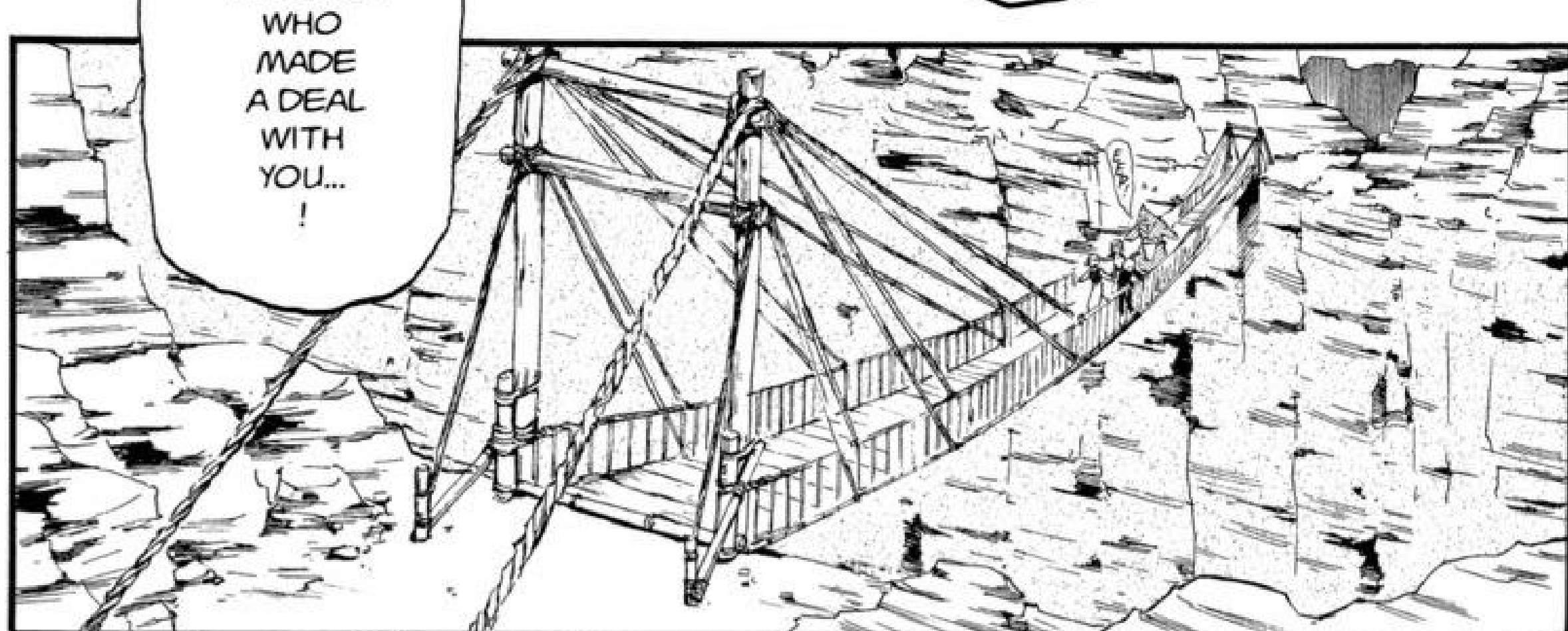
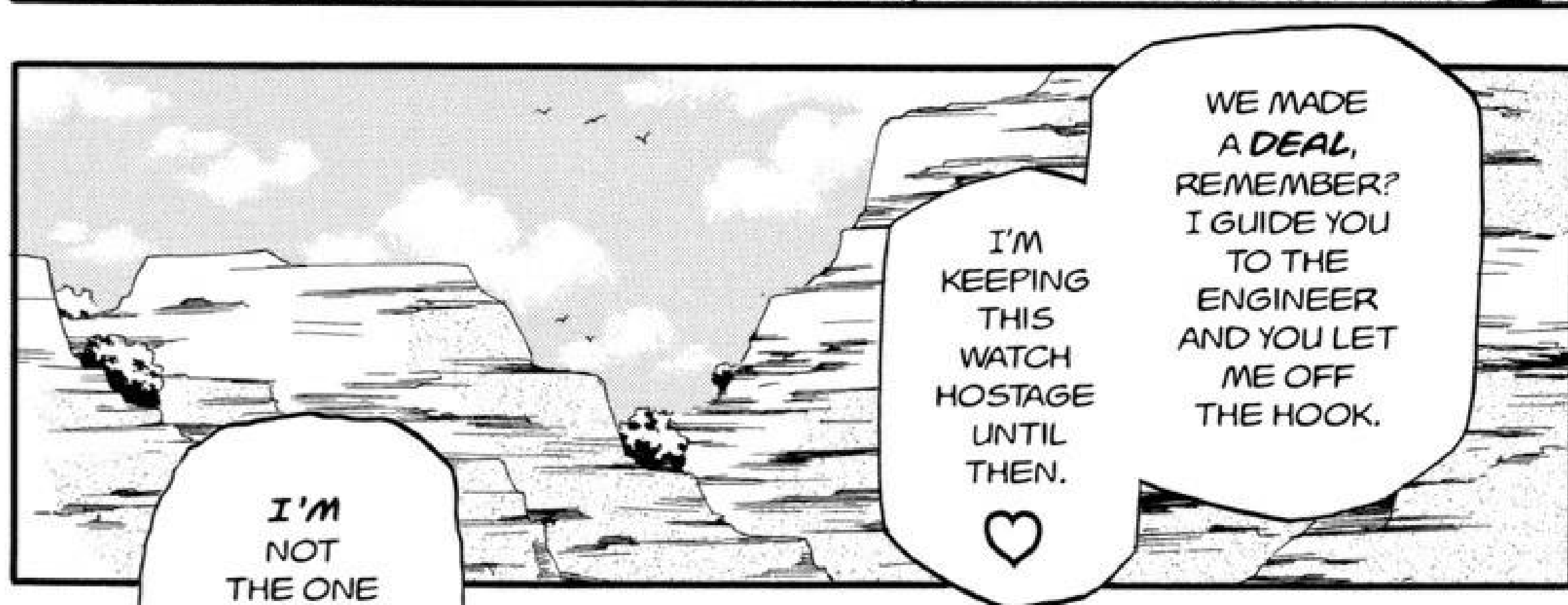
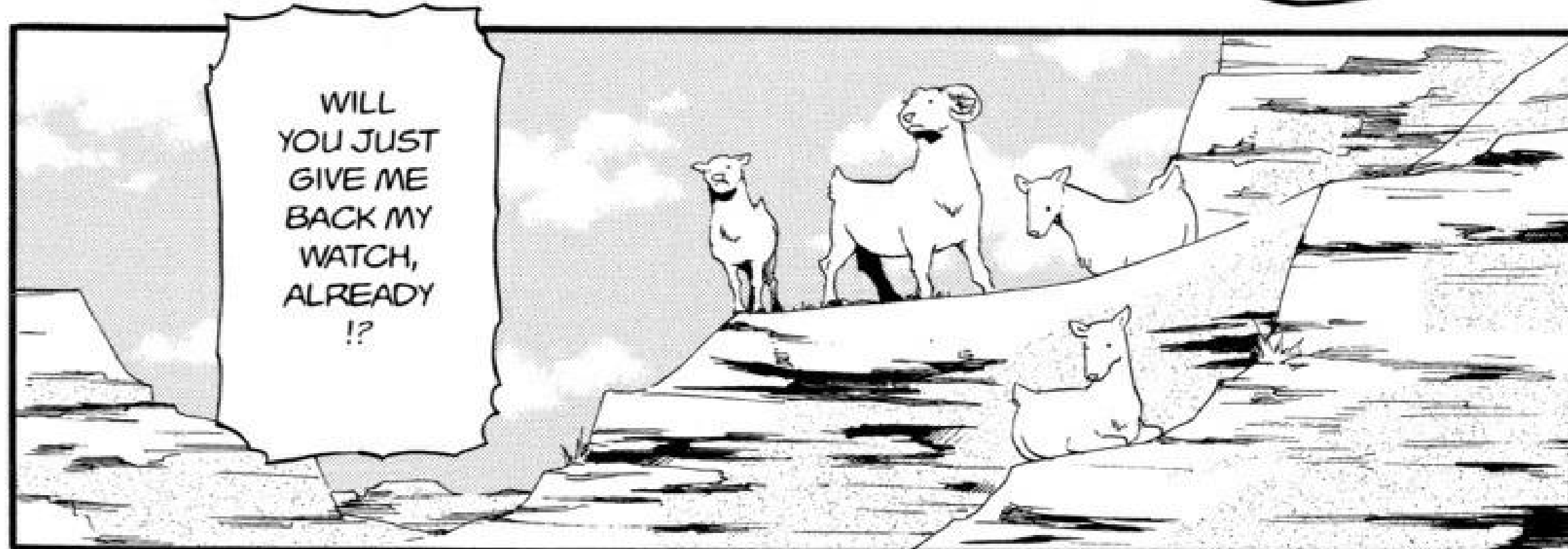
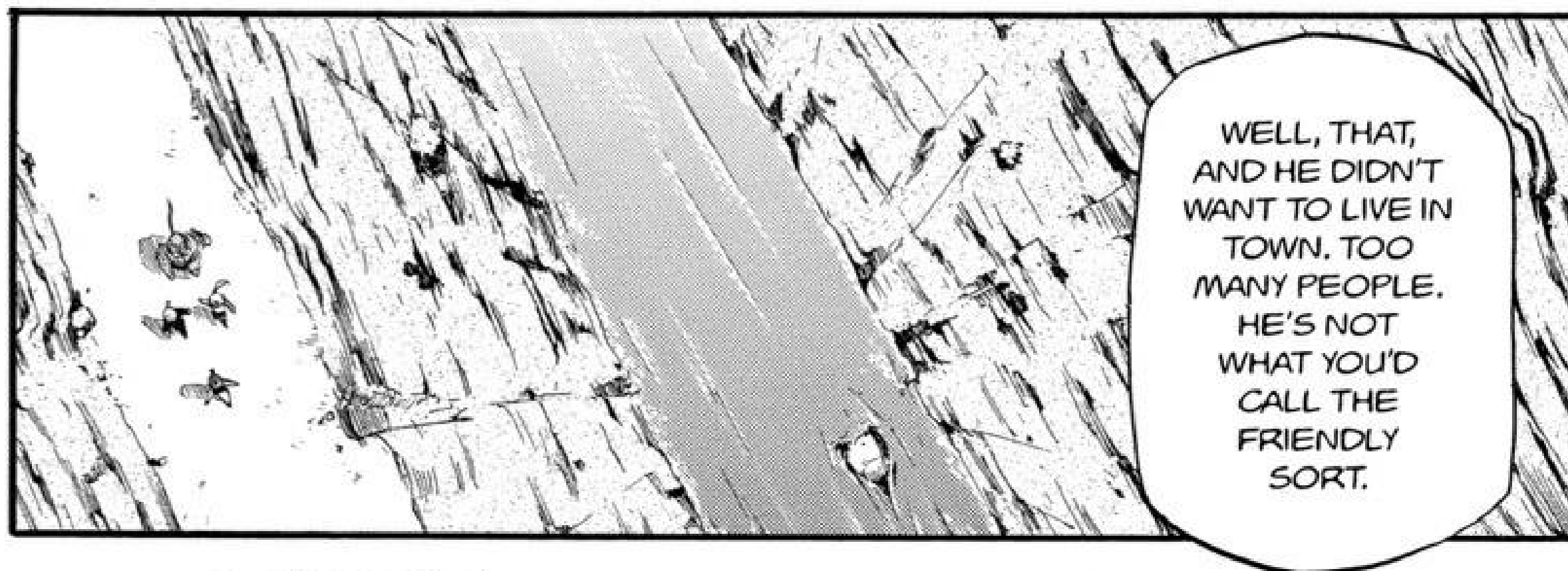
GAB GAB GAB

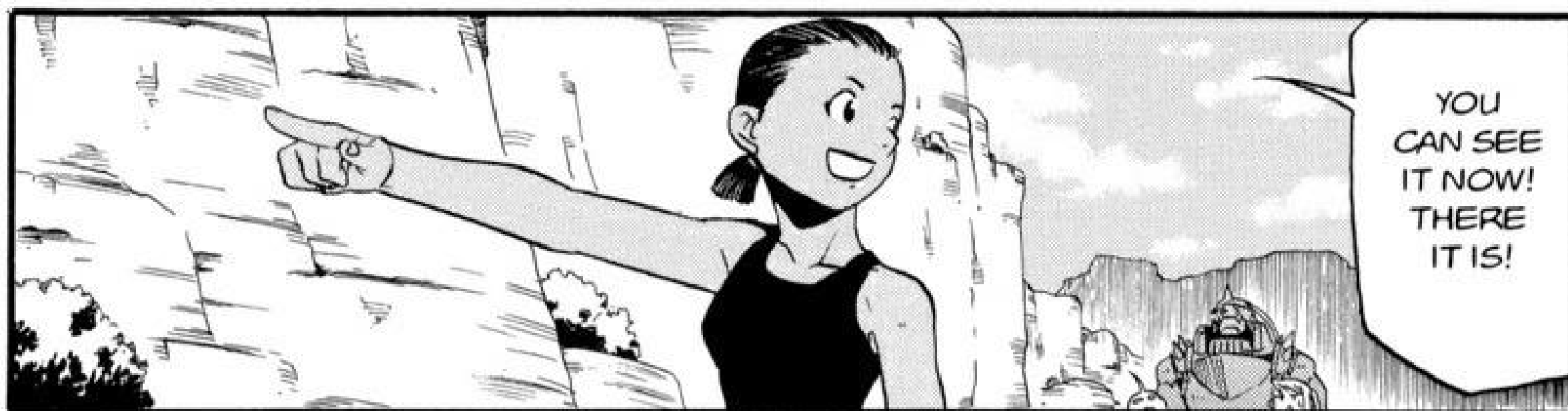


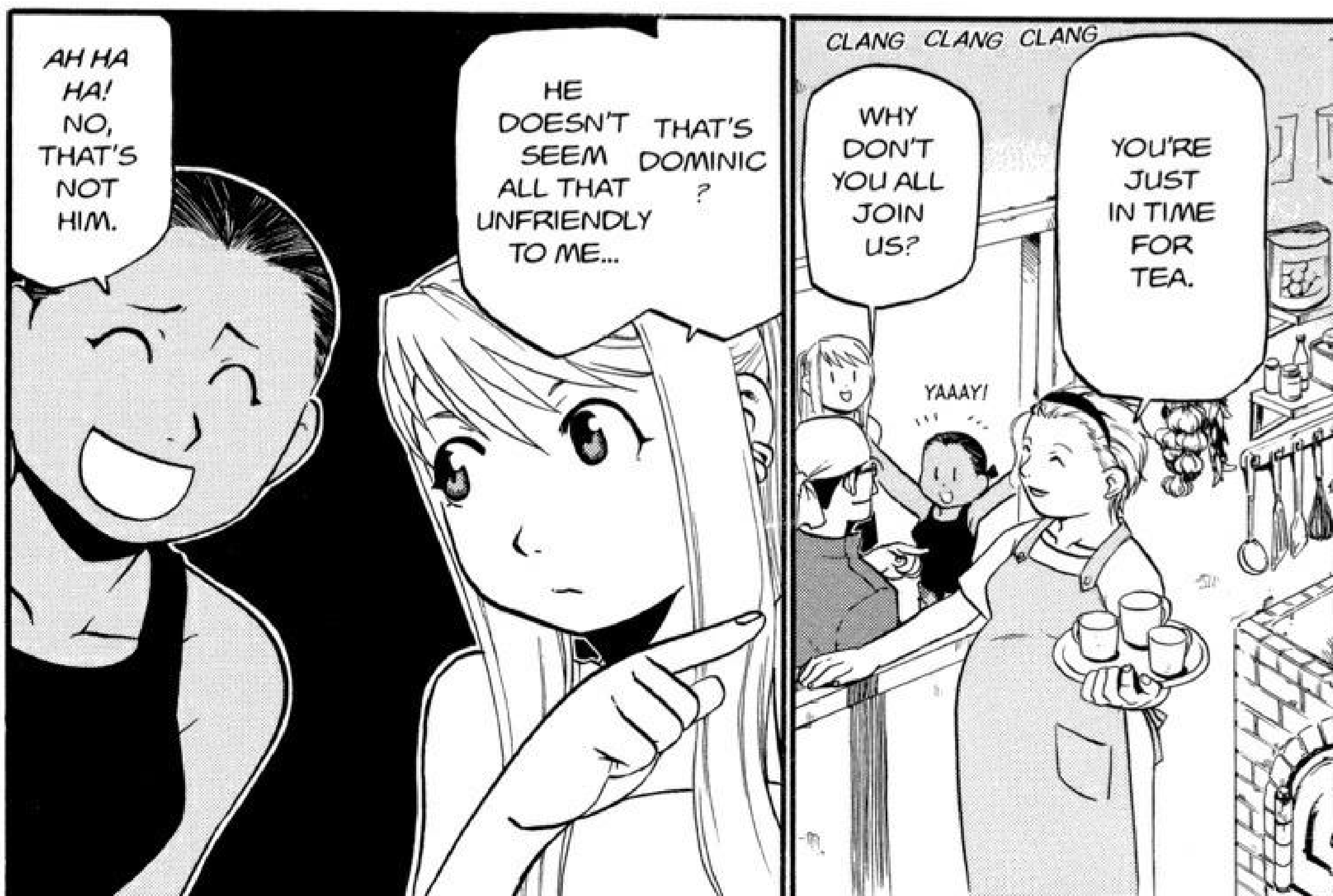
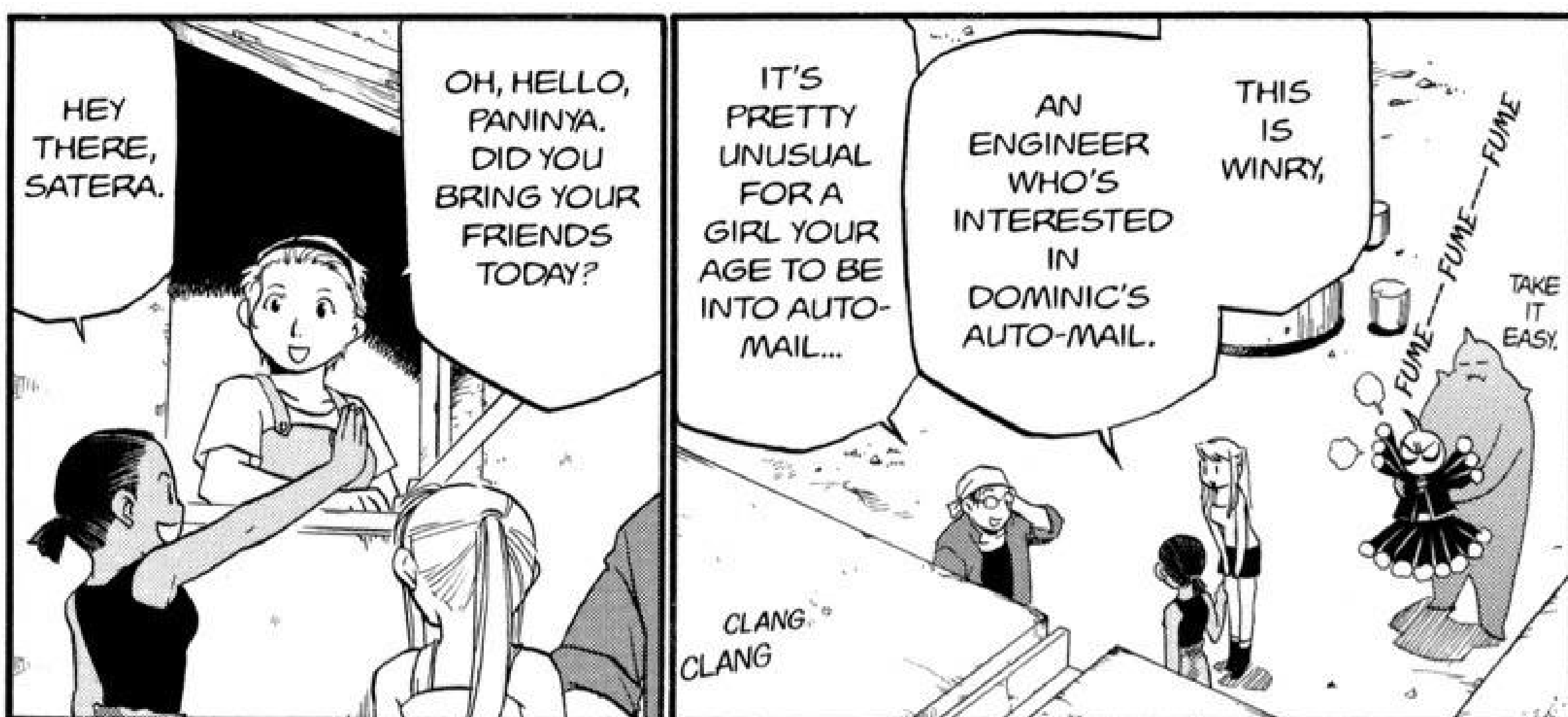
YUP. HE SAYS
HE CAN FIND
BETTER QUALITY
ORE FOR AUTO-
MAIL PARTS OUT
HERE, SO THAT'S
WHY HE HAS A
SHOP SO DEEP
IN THE
MOUNTAINS.

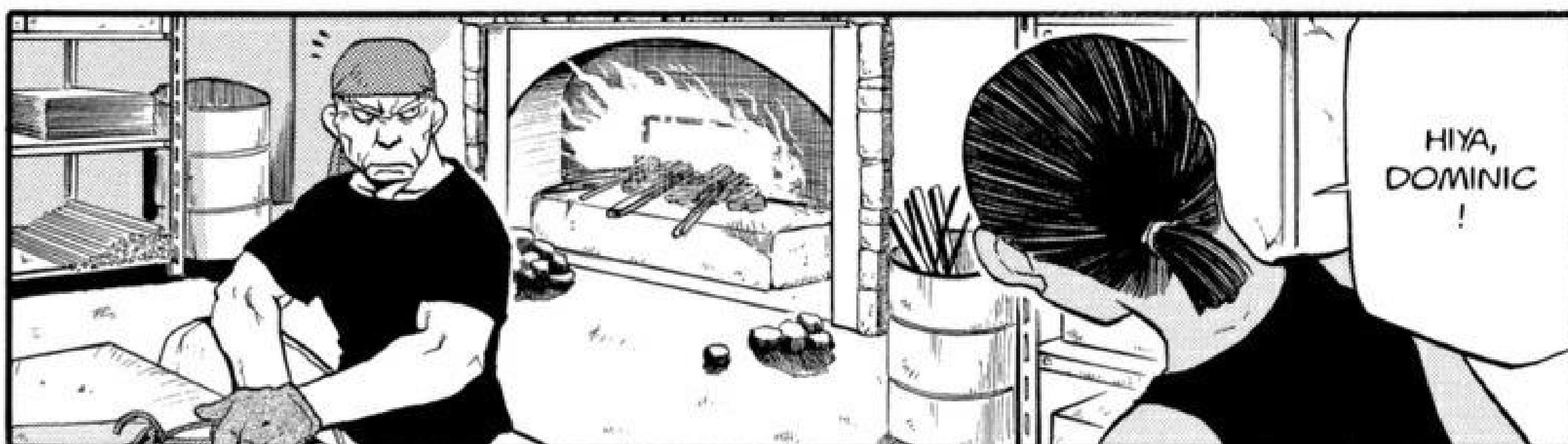
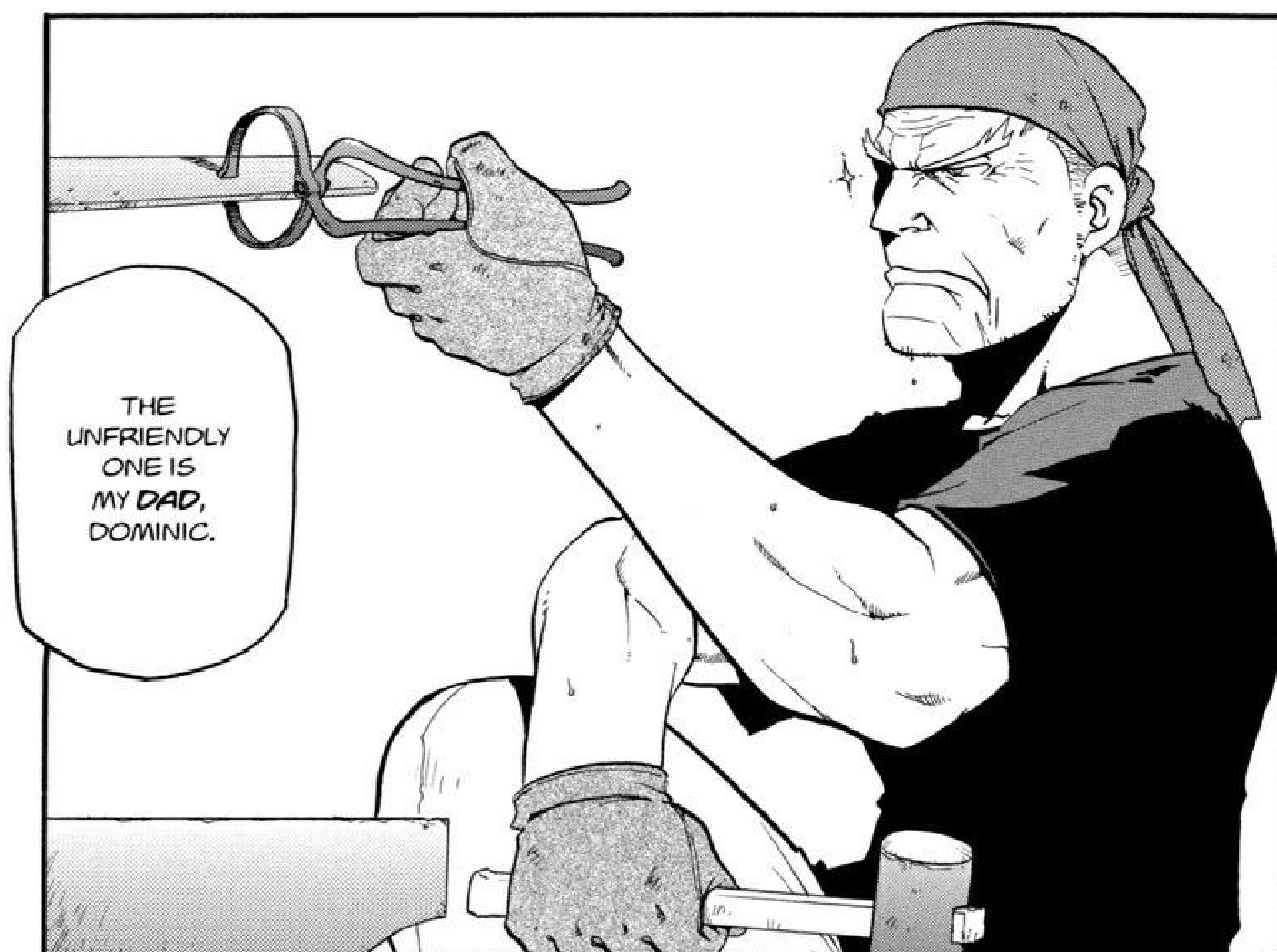
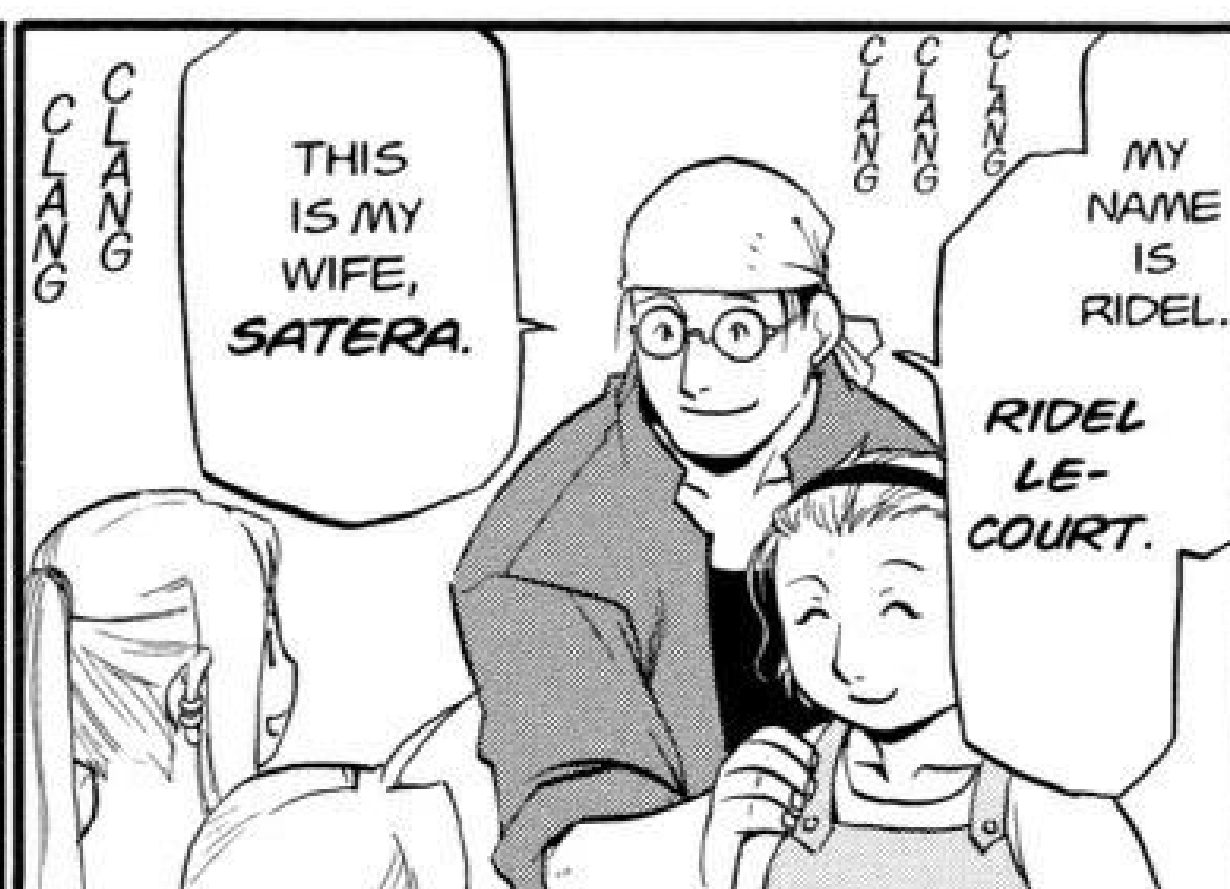
YOU WEREN'T
KIDDING. THIS
ENGINEER OF
YOURS REALLY
DOES LIVE IN
THE MIDDLE OF
NOWHERE.

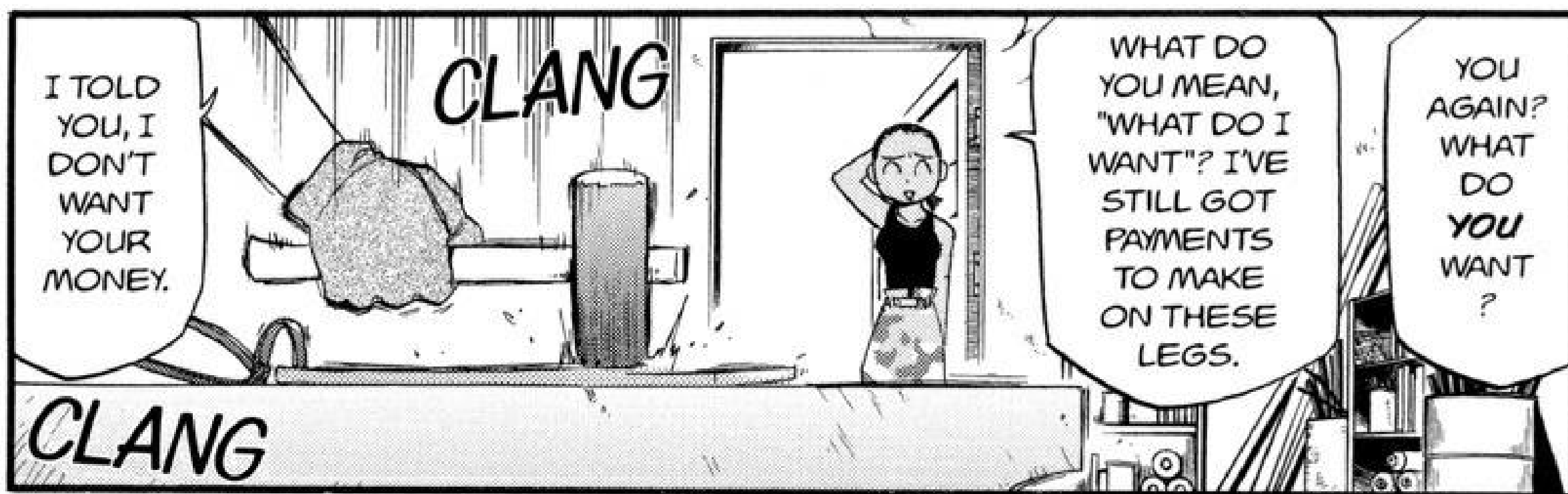
GLARE

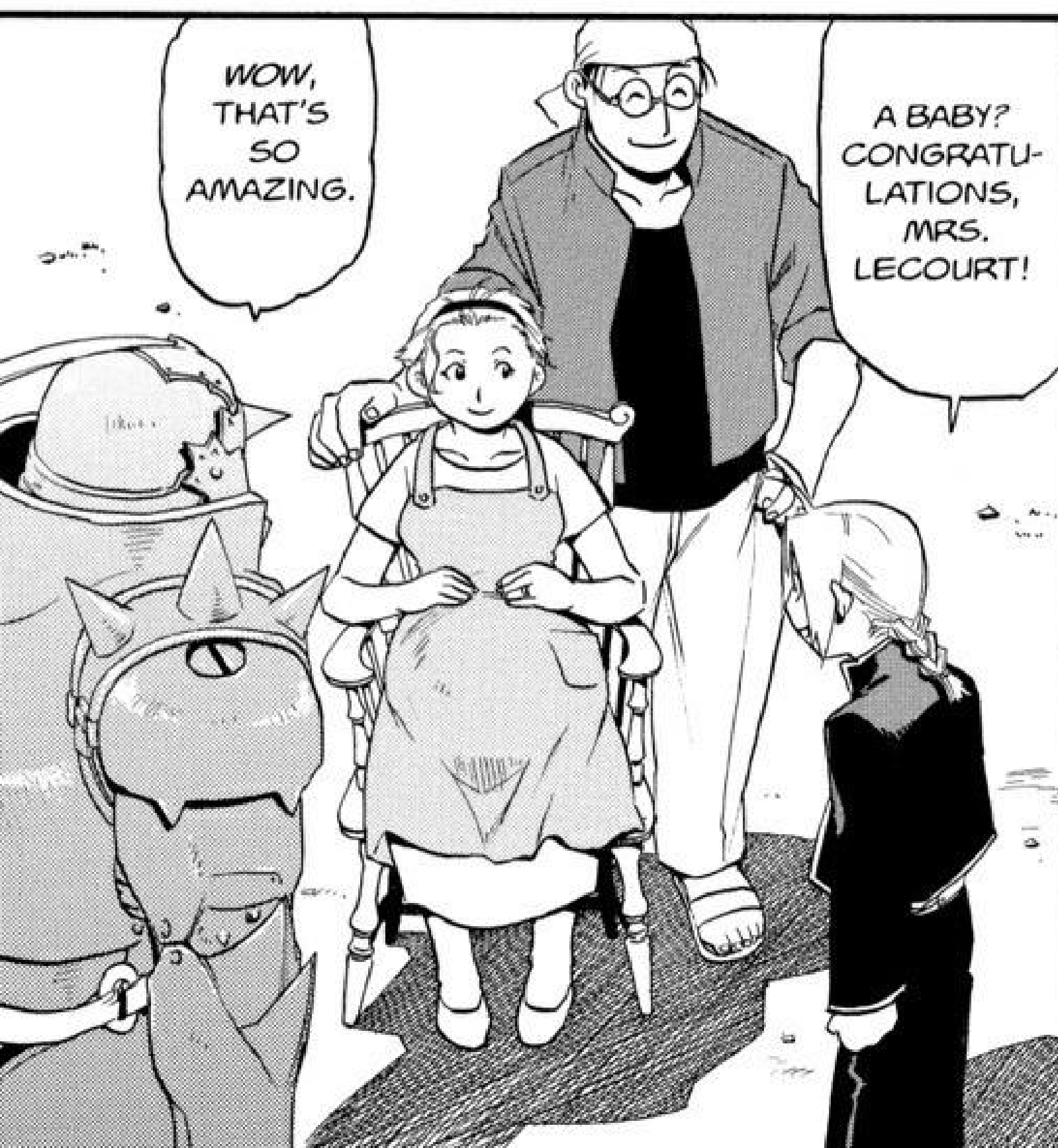
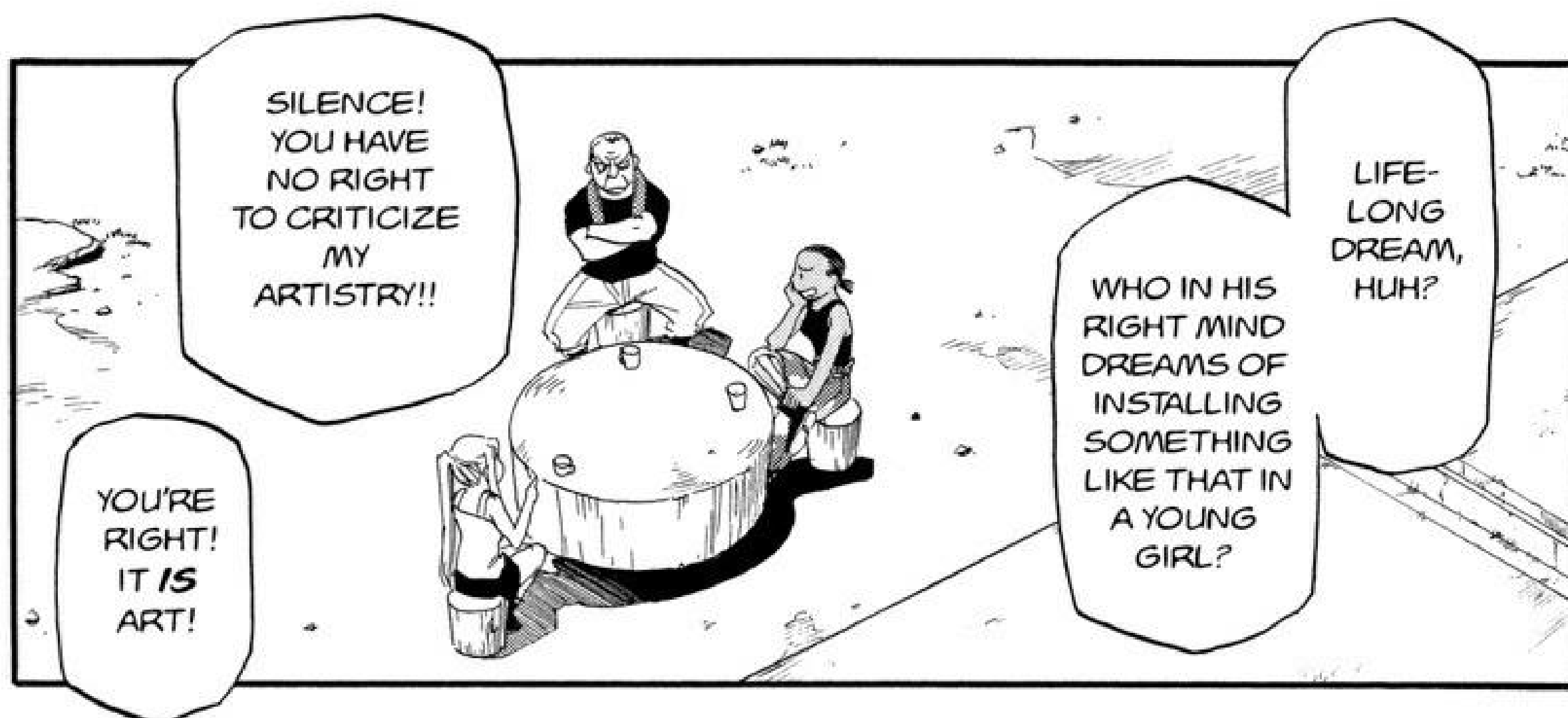


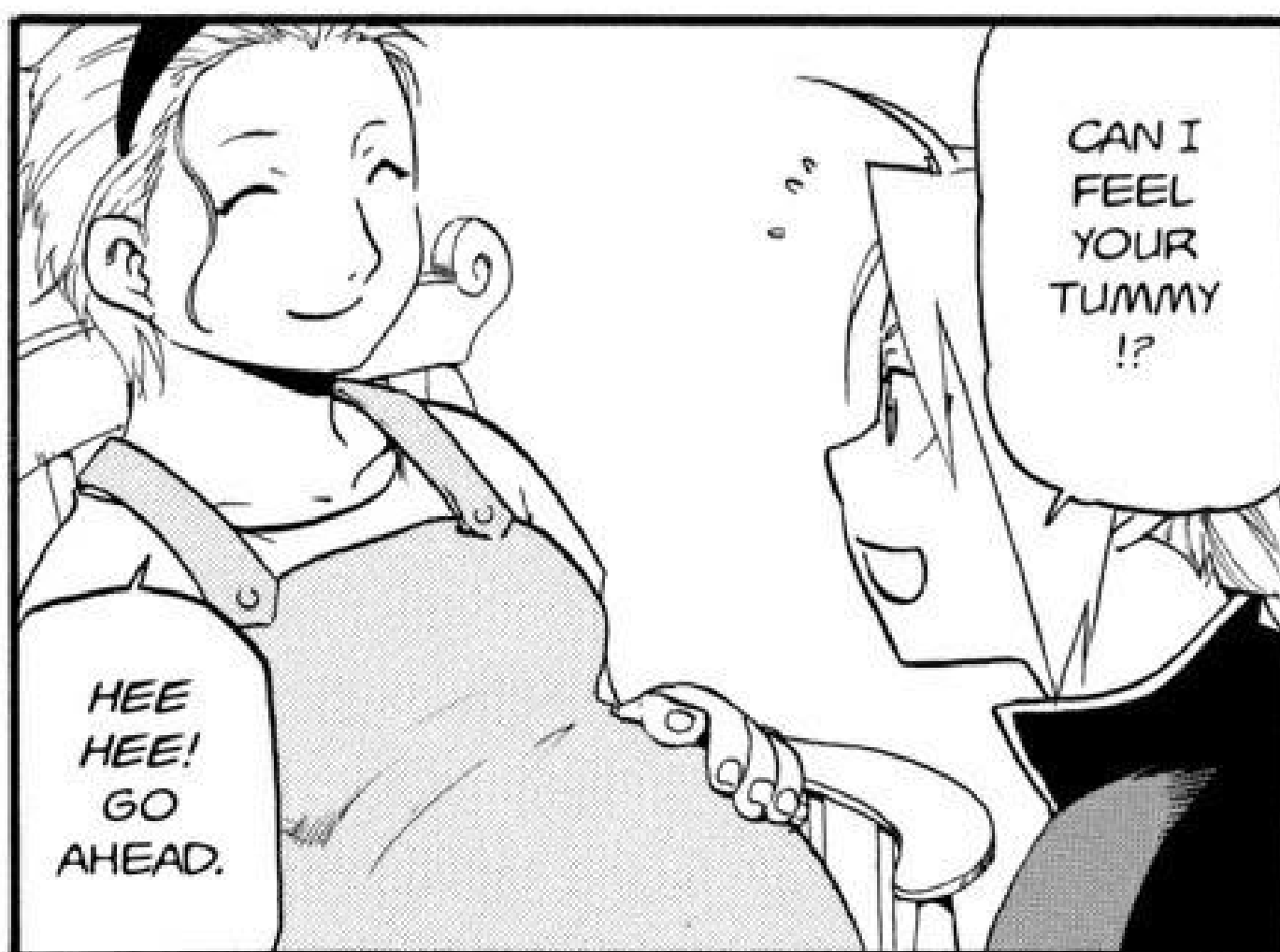


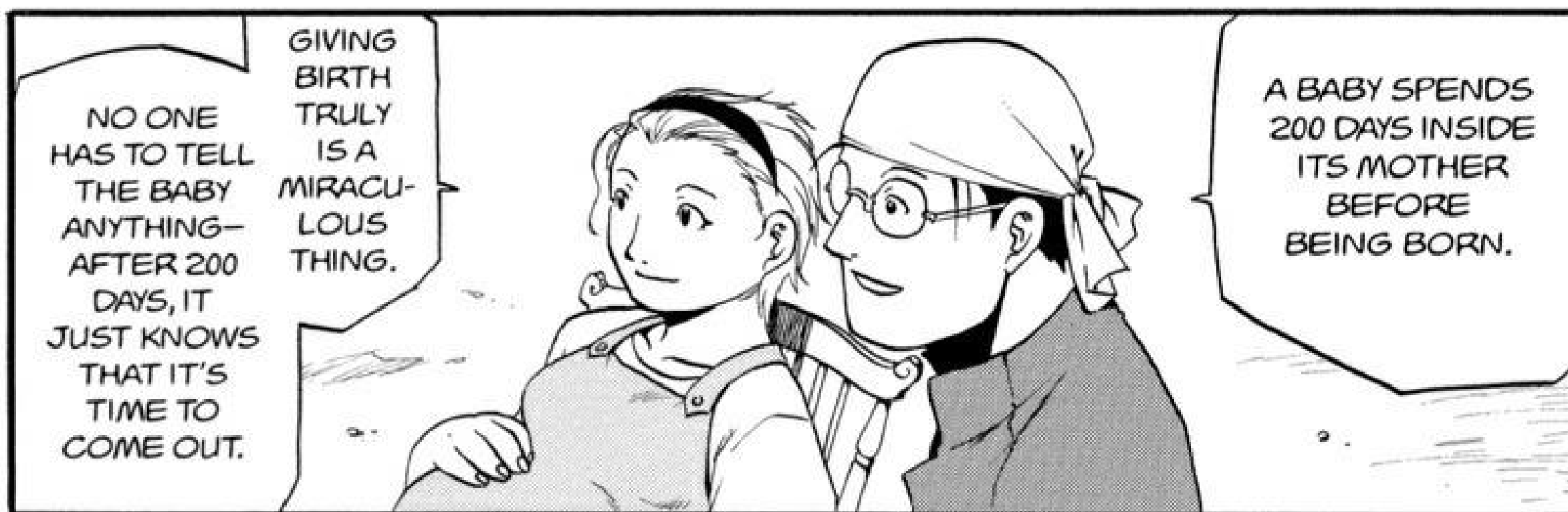


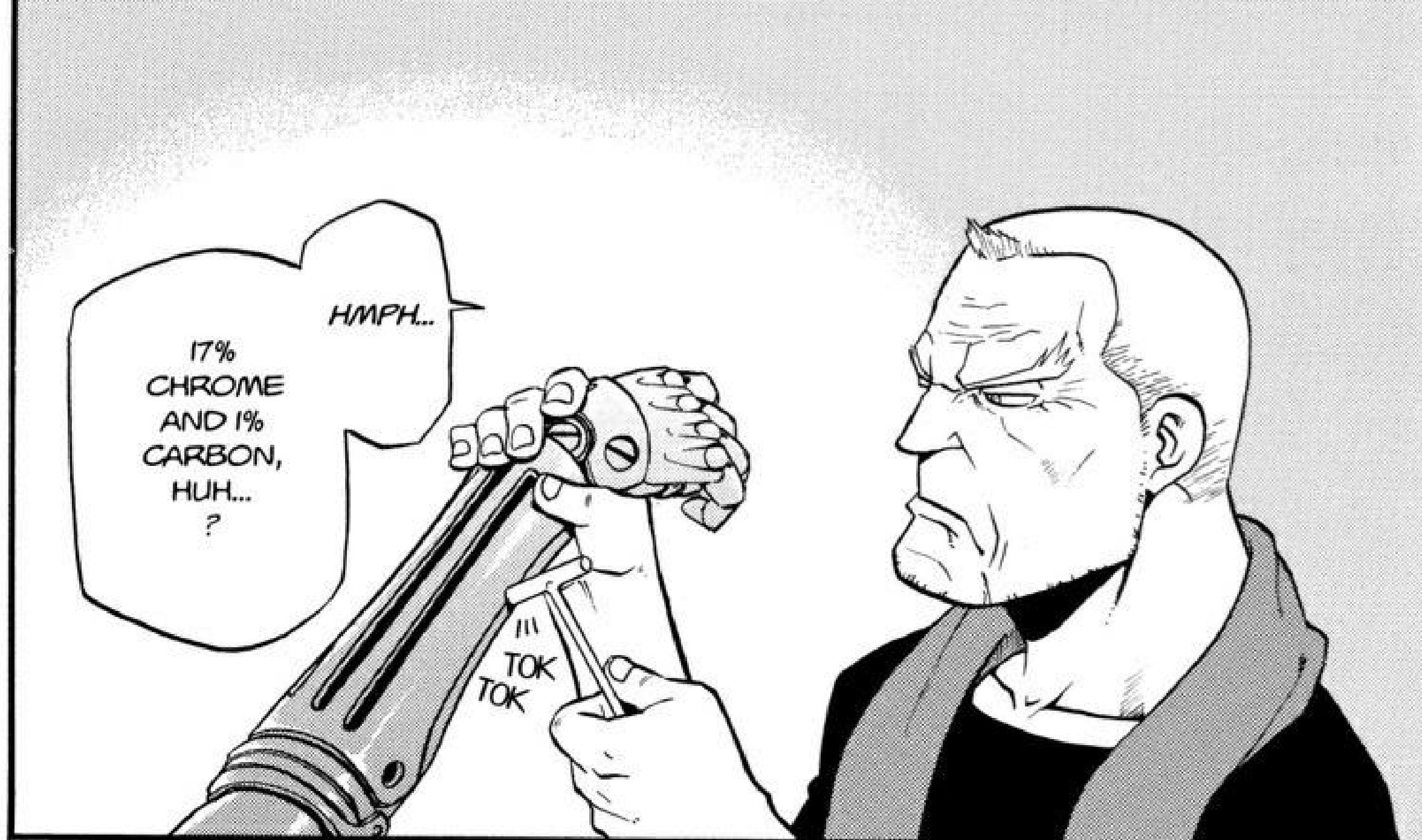


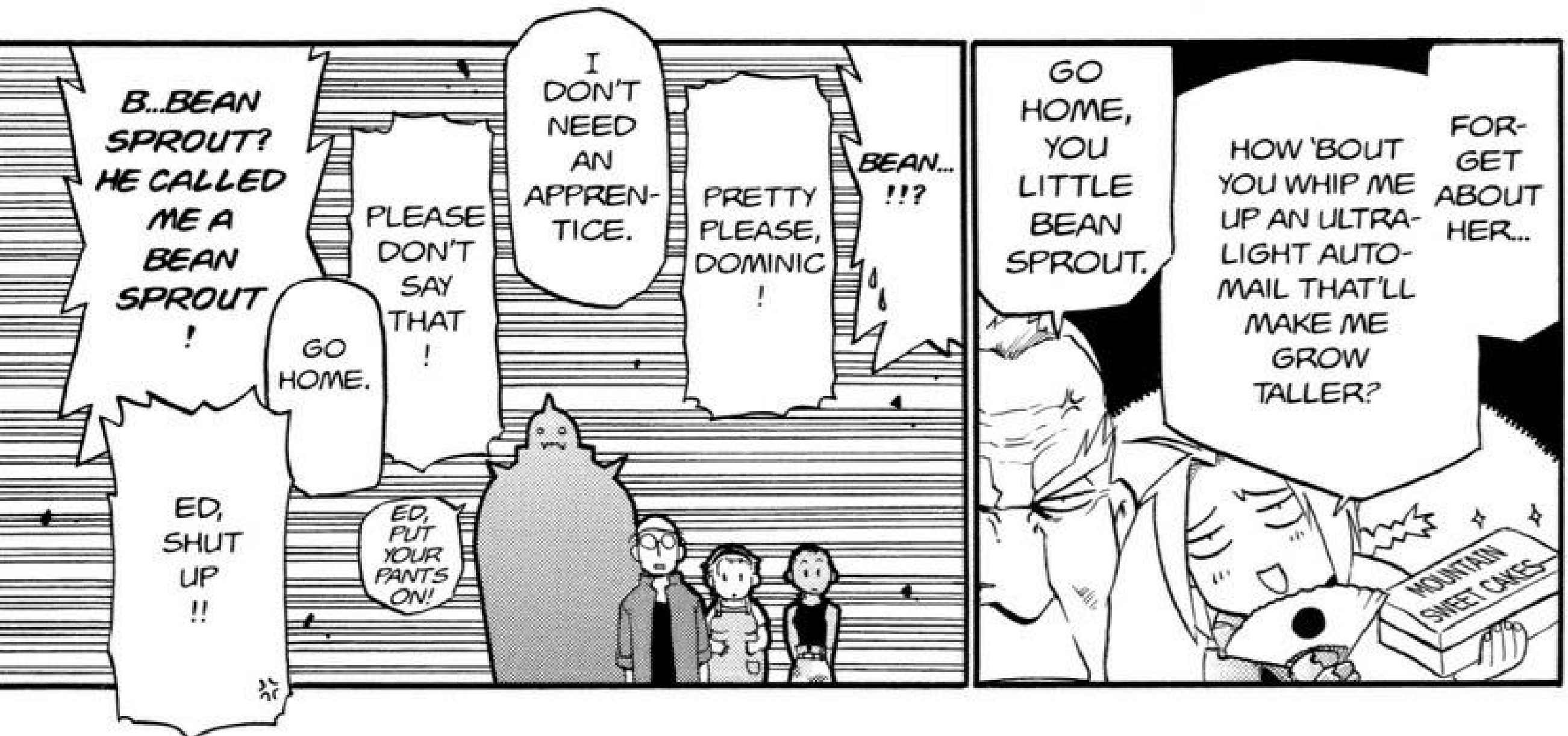


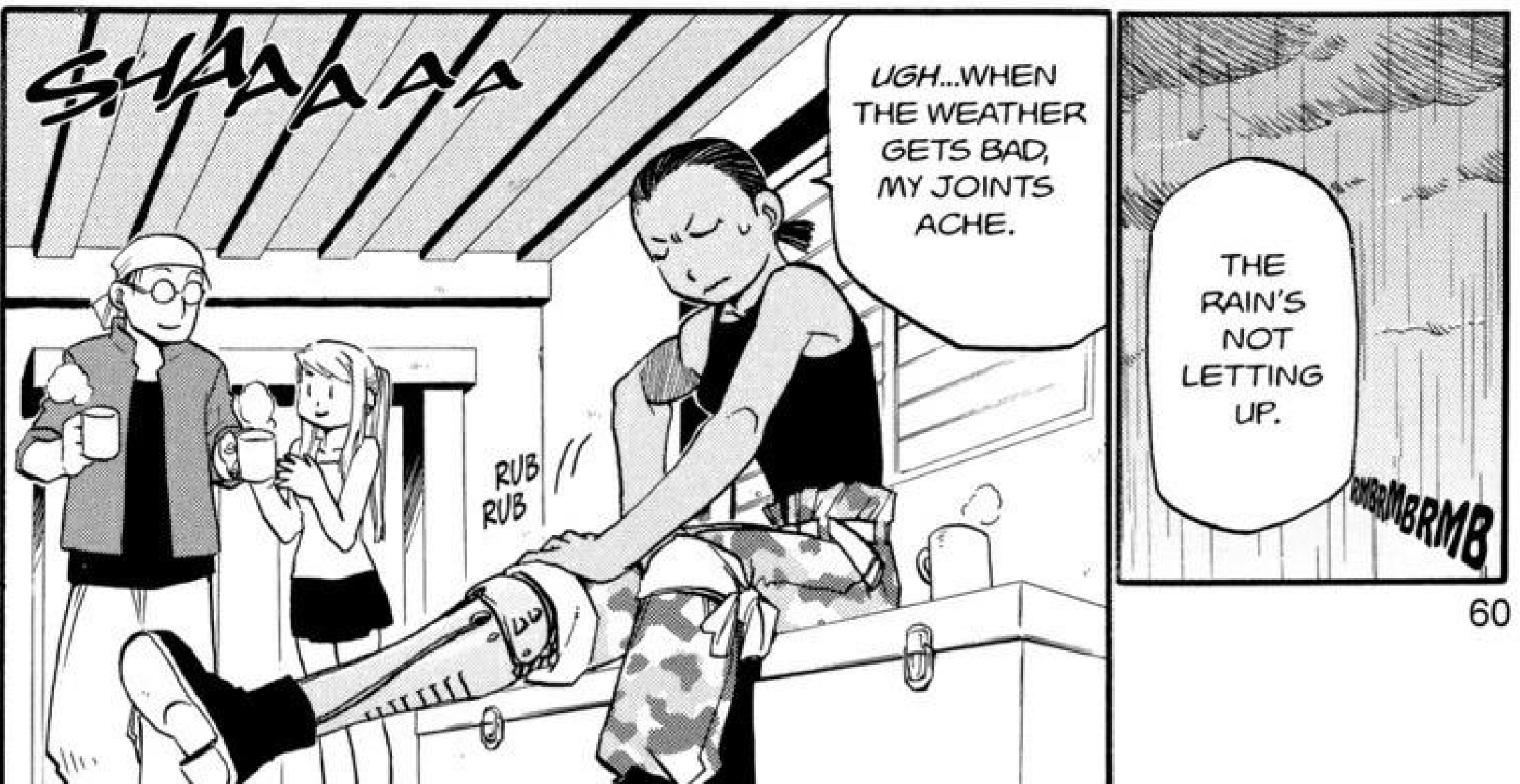








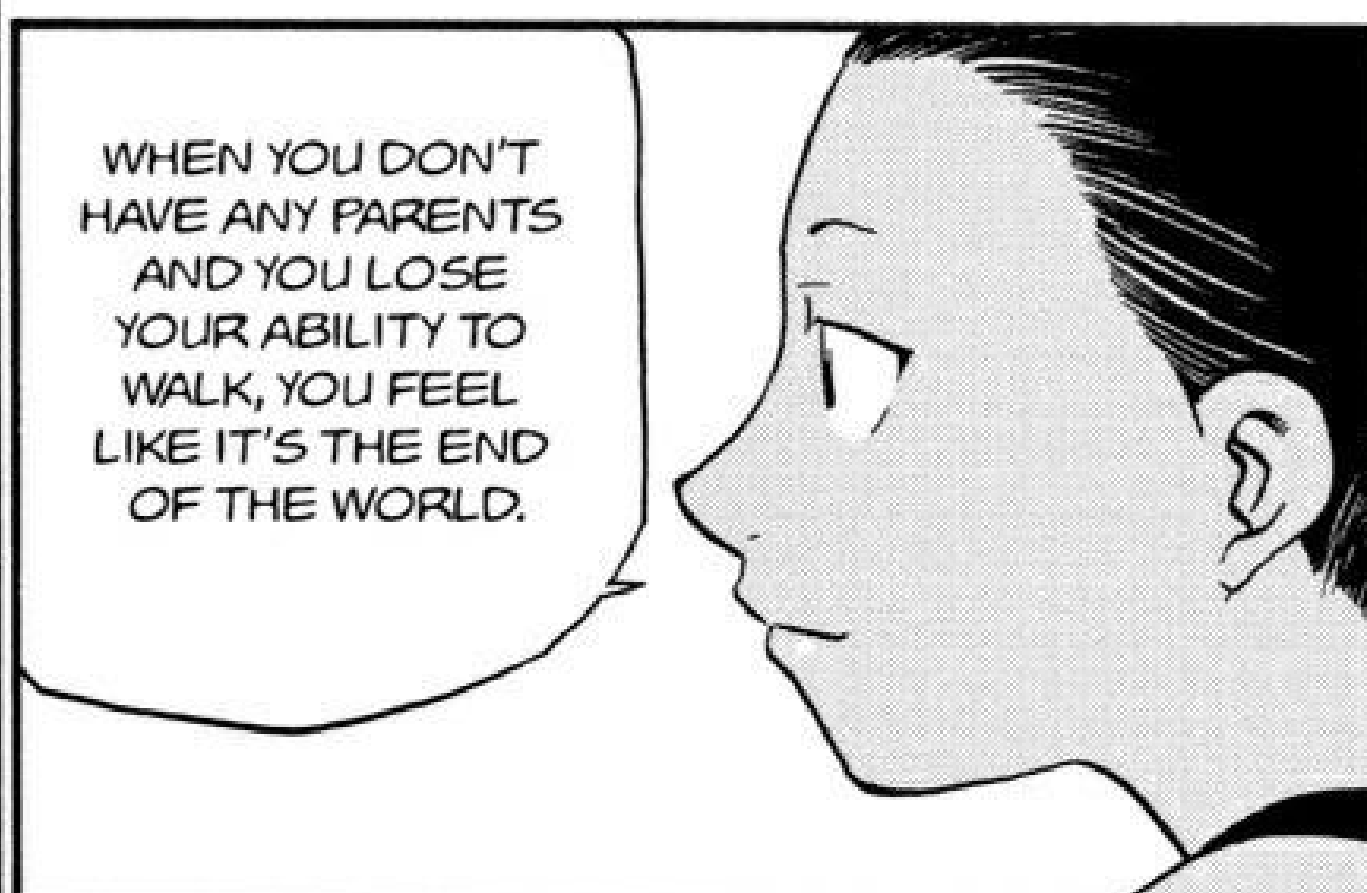




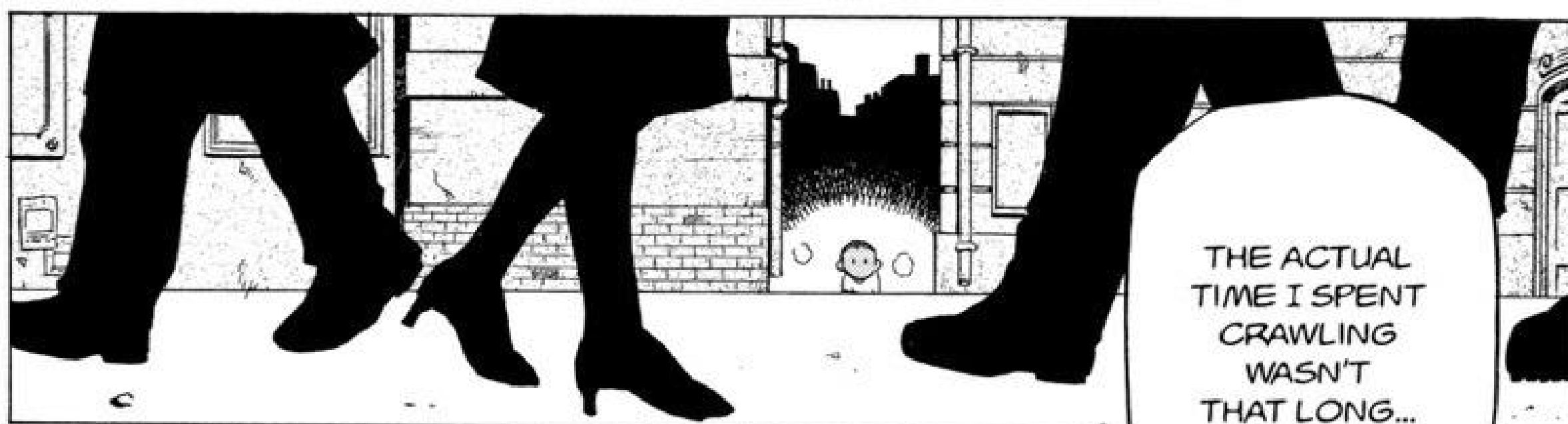


I WAS
IN A
TRAIN
ACCI-
DENT.

IF YOU
DON'T MIND
MY ASKING,
PANINYA,
HOW DID YOU
COME TO
NEED AUTO-
MAIL?



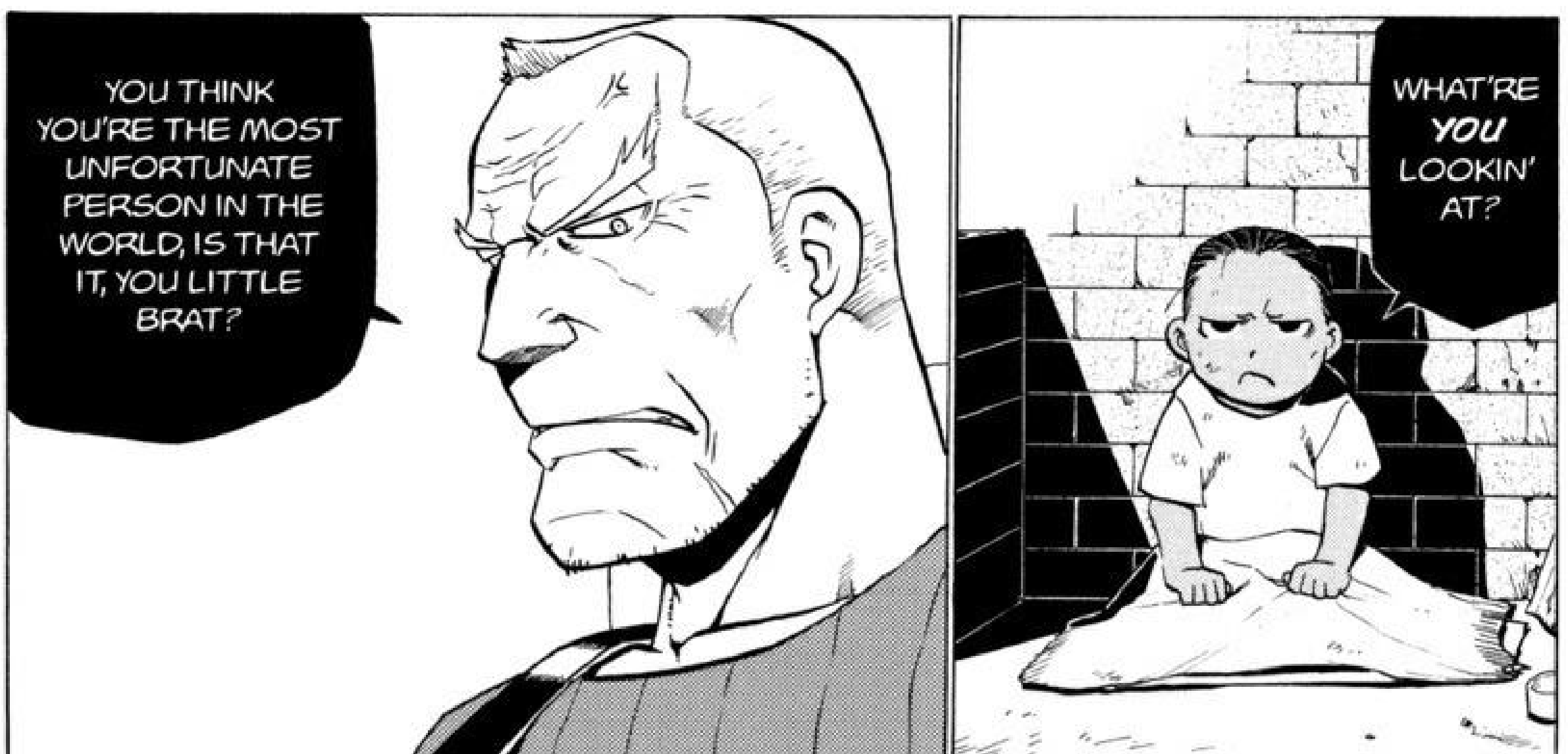
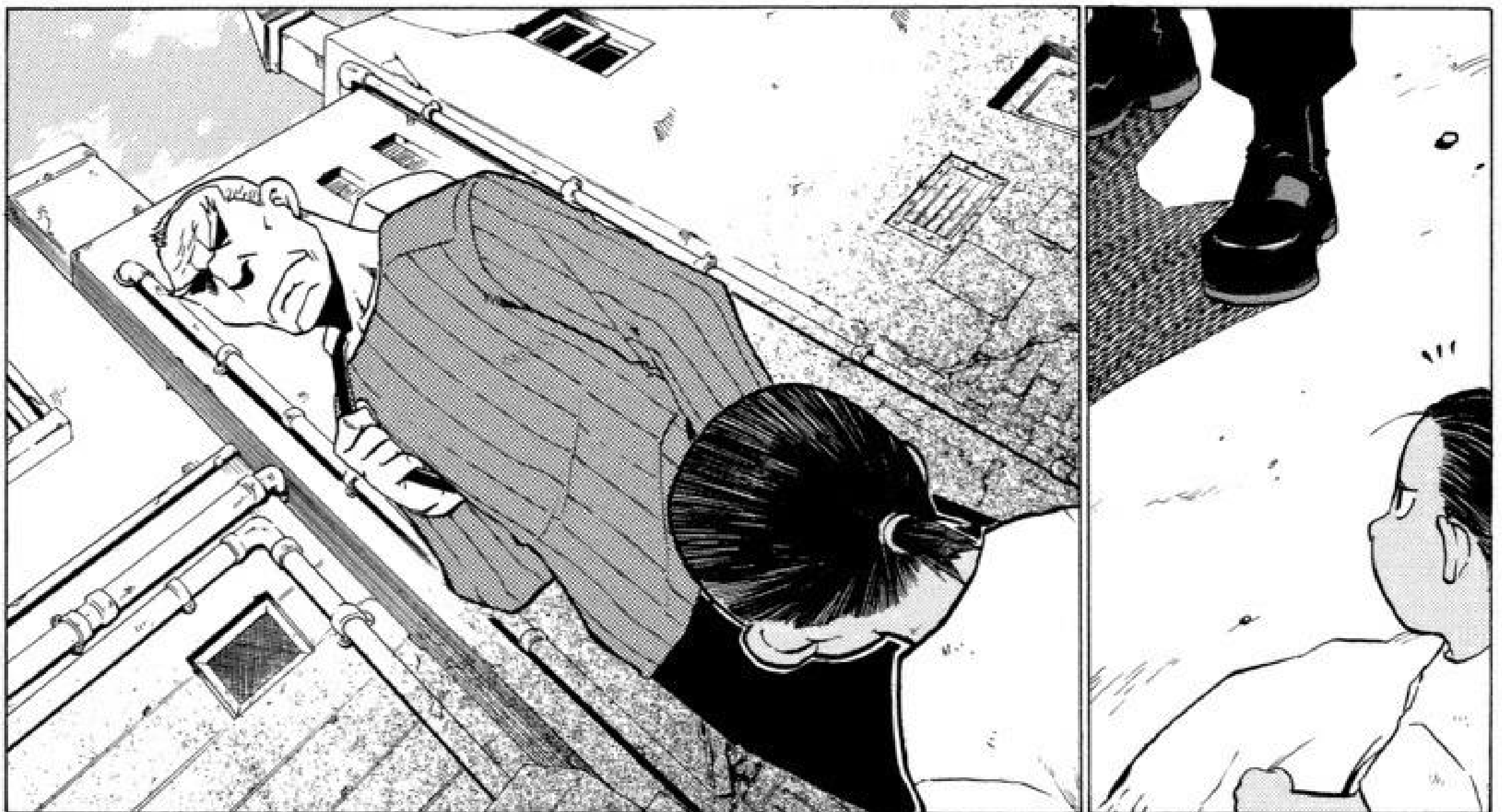
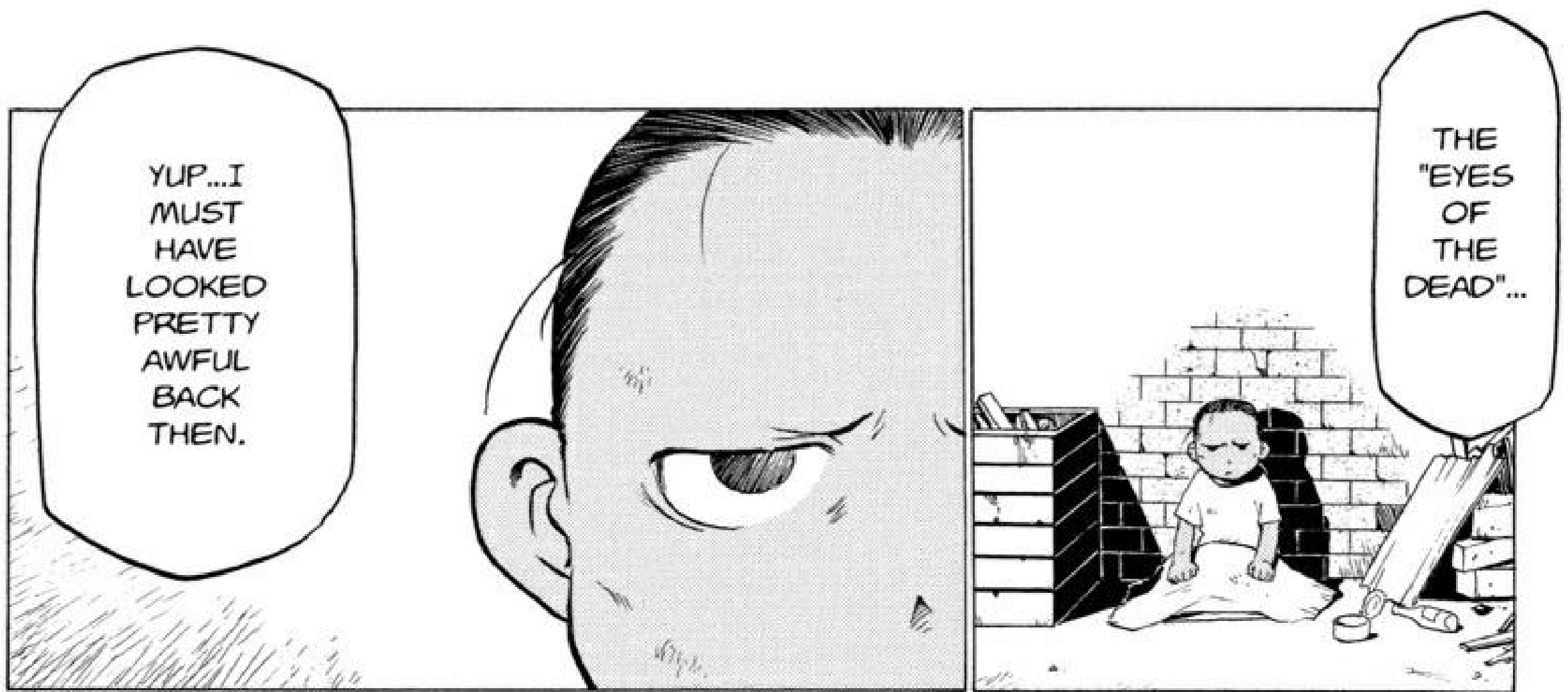
WHEN YOU DON'T
HAVE ANY PARENTS
AND YOU LOSE
YOUR ABILITY TO
WALK, YOU FEEL
LIKE IT'S THE END
OF THE WORLD.



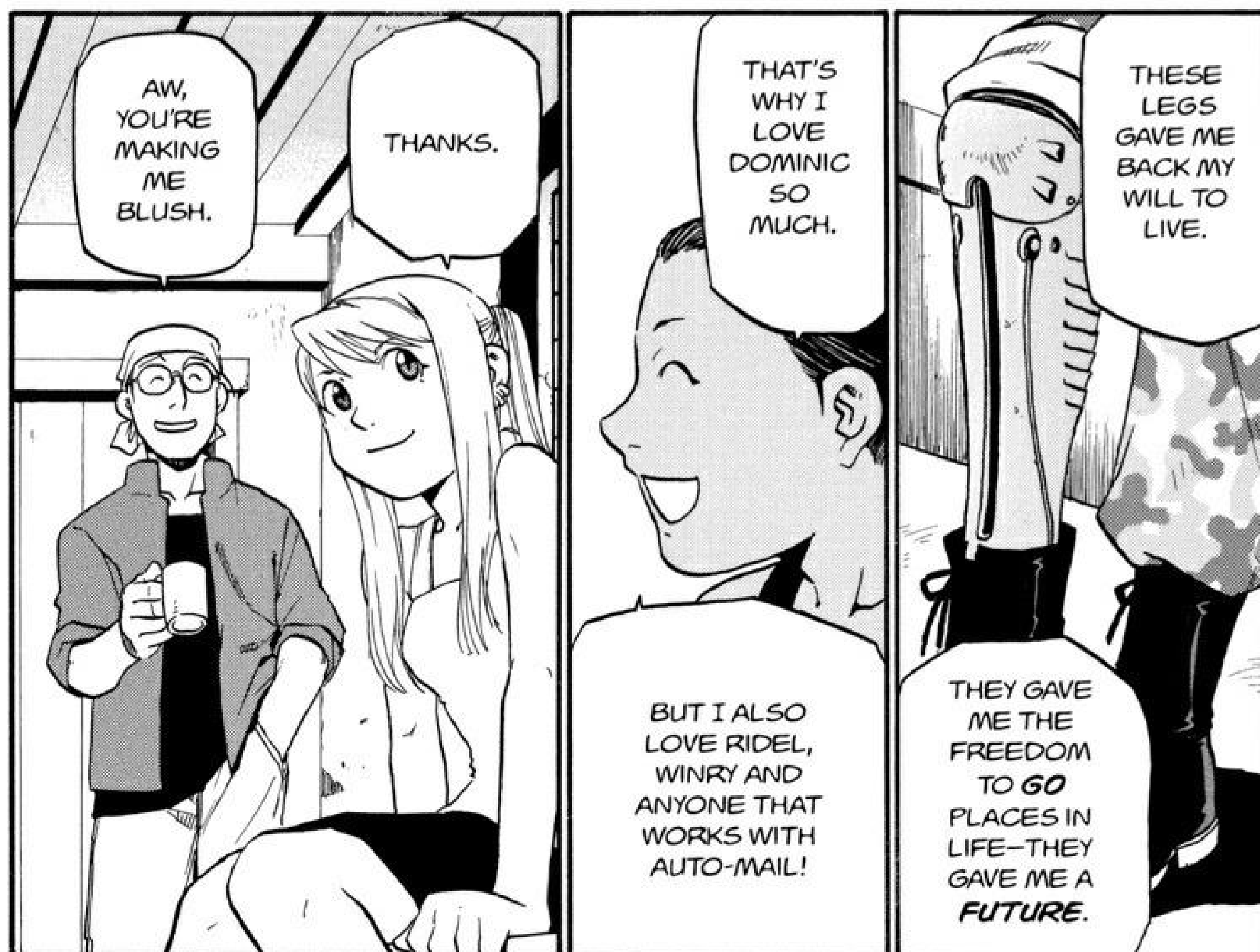
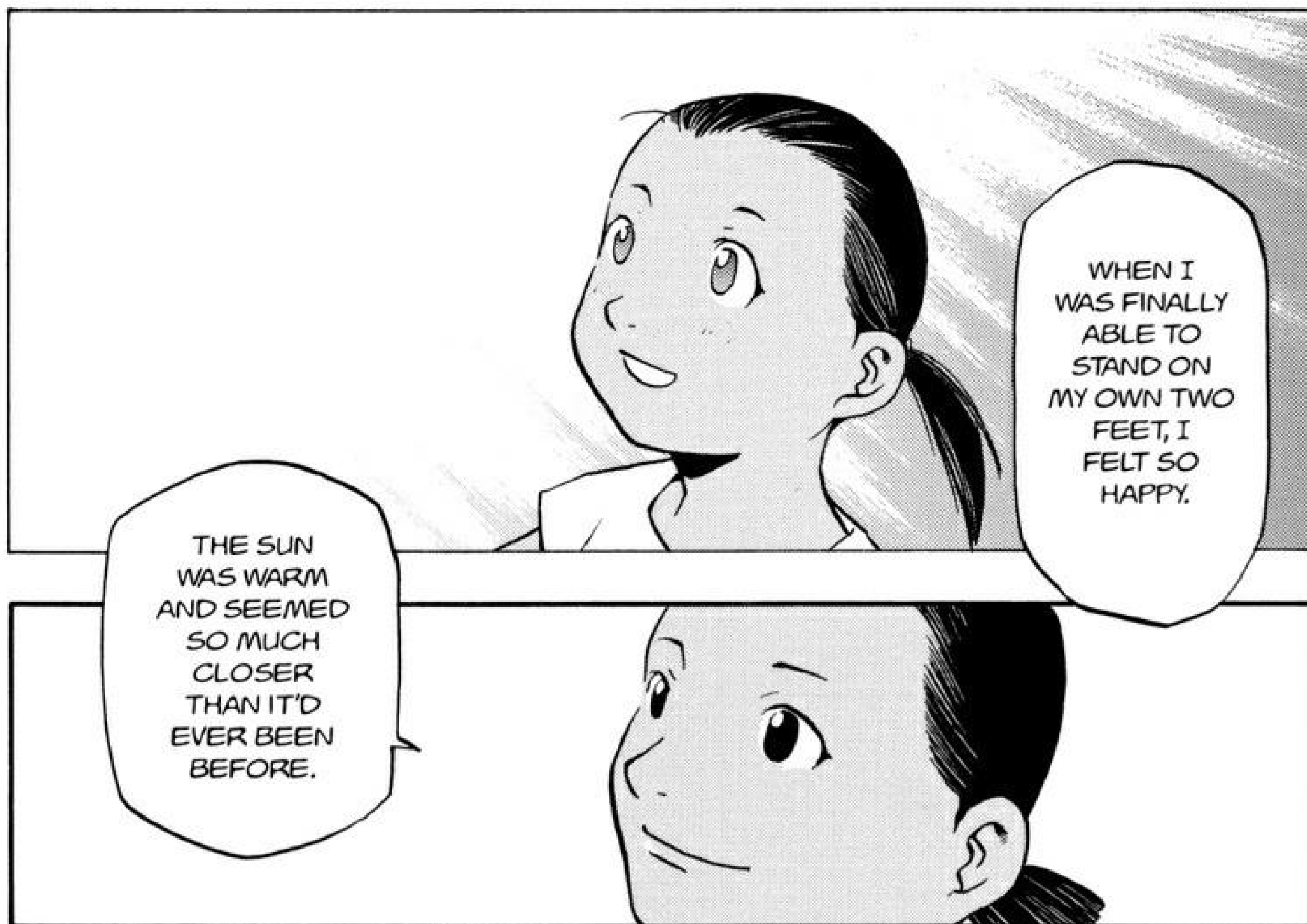
THE ACTUAL
TIME I SPENT
CRAWLING
WASN'T
THAT LONG...



...BUT
THAT
WAS THE
LOWEST
POINT
IN MY
LIFE.









I'M NOT SO POOR THAT I NEED TO TAKE MONEY FROM A BRAT LIKE YOU.

PAYMENT? I DON'T WANT IT, YOU FOOL.



WHEN THE DOCTOR TOLD ME THE MARKET PRICE FOR THE AUTO-MAIL DOMINIC MADE ME, I NEARLY FLIPPED MY LID.

YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO PAY THAT.

BUT I HAD TO KNOW HOW MUCH IT COST.

SIGH...



WELL THEN...

NOT ONLY DOES HE NOT LET ME PAY, BUT HE ALWAYS GIVES ME FREE CHECK-UPS AND MAINTENANCE.

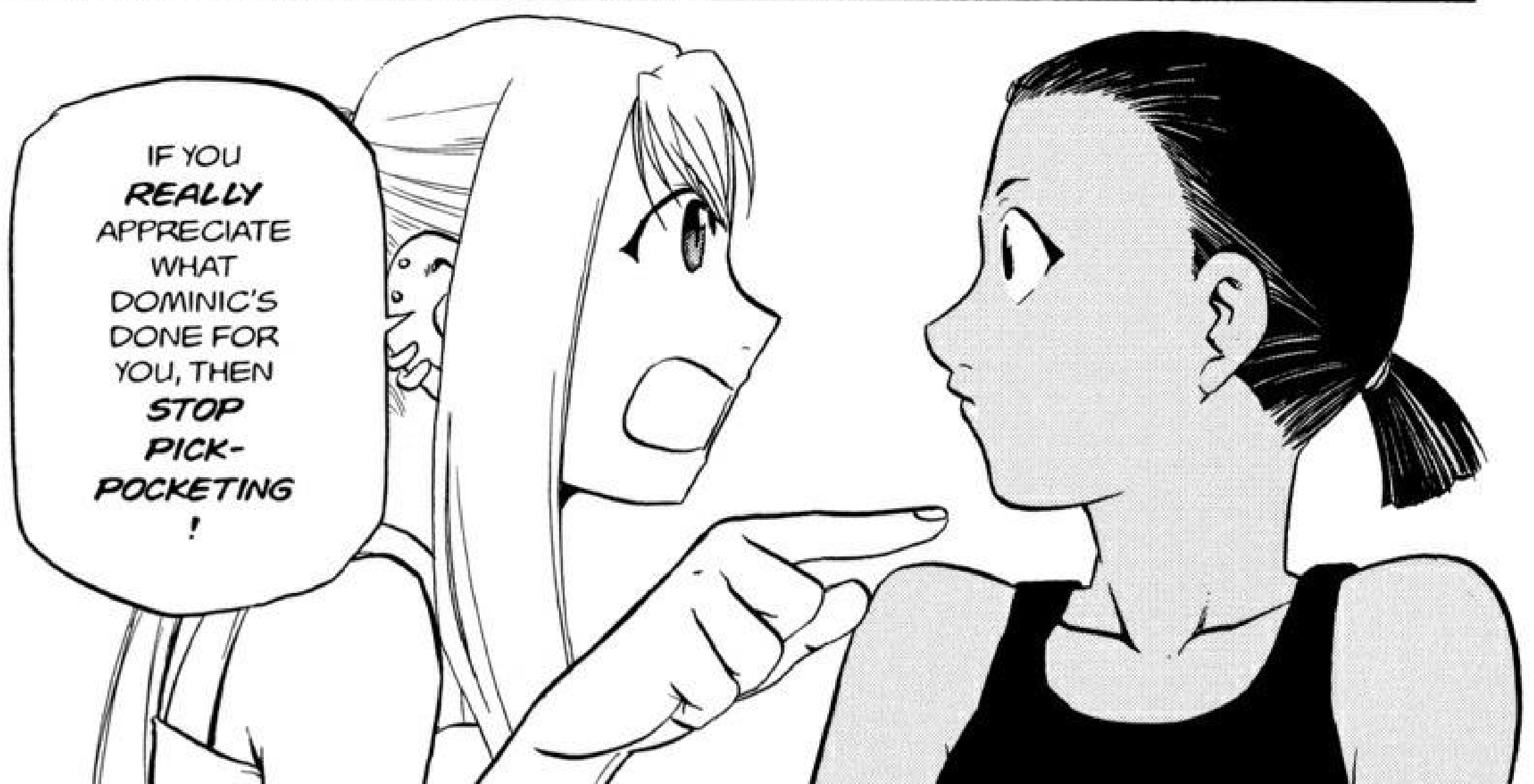
I FEEL SO GUILTY THAT IT MAKES ME WANNA CRY.

YEAH.

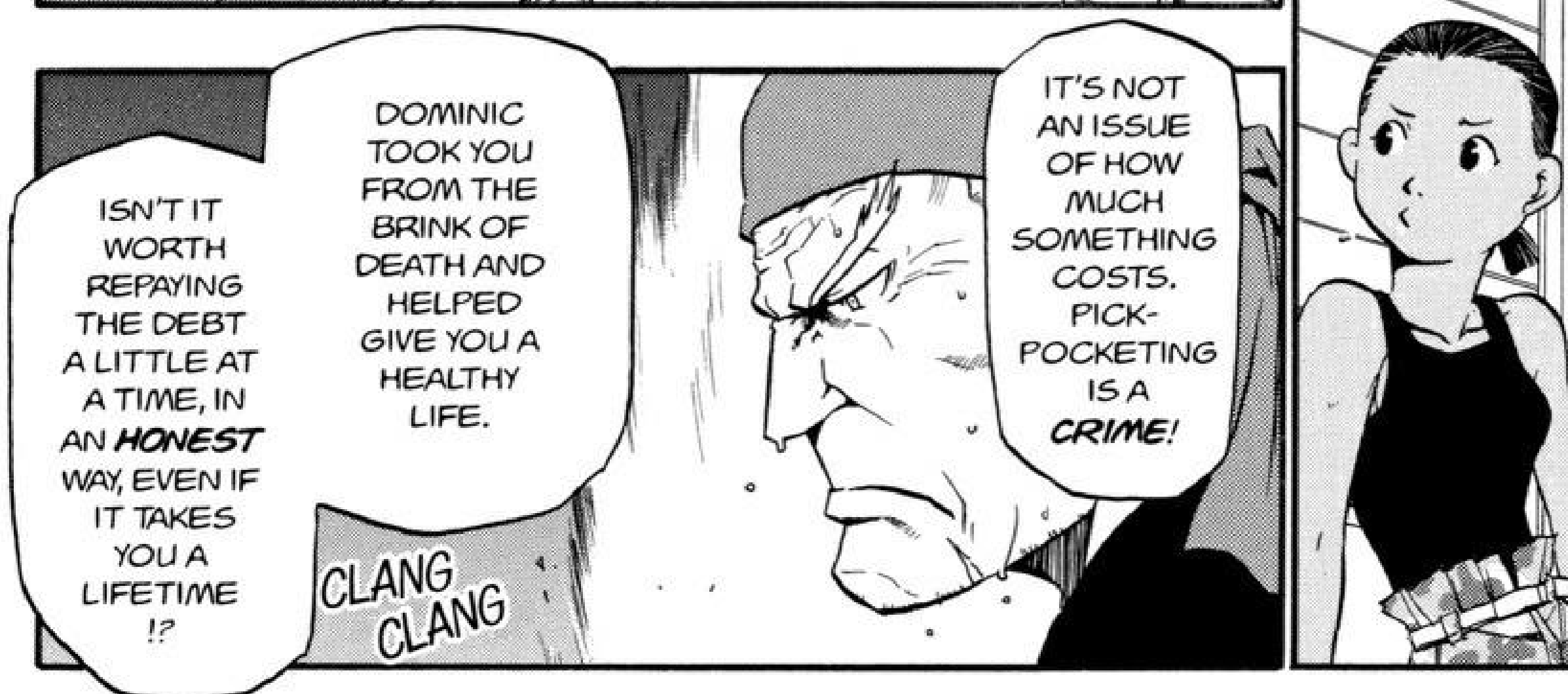
BUT DOMINIC NEVER TAKES MY MONEY.

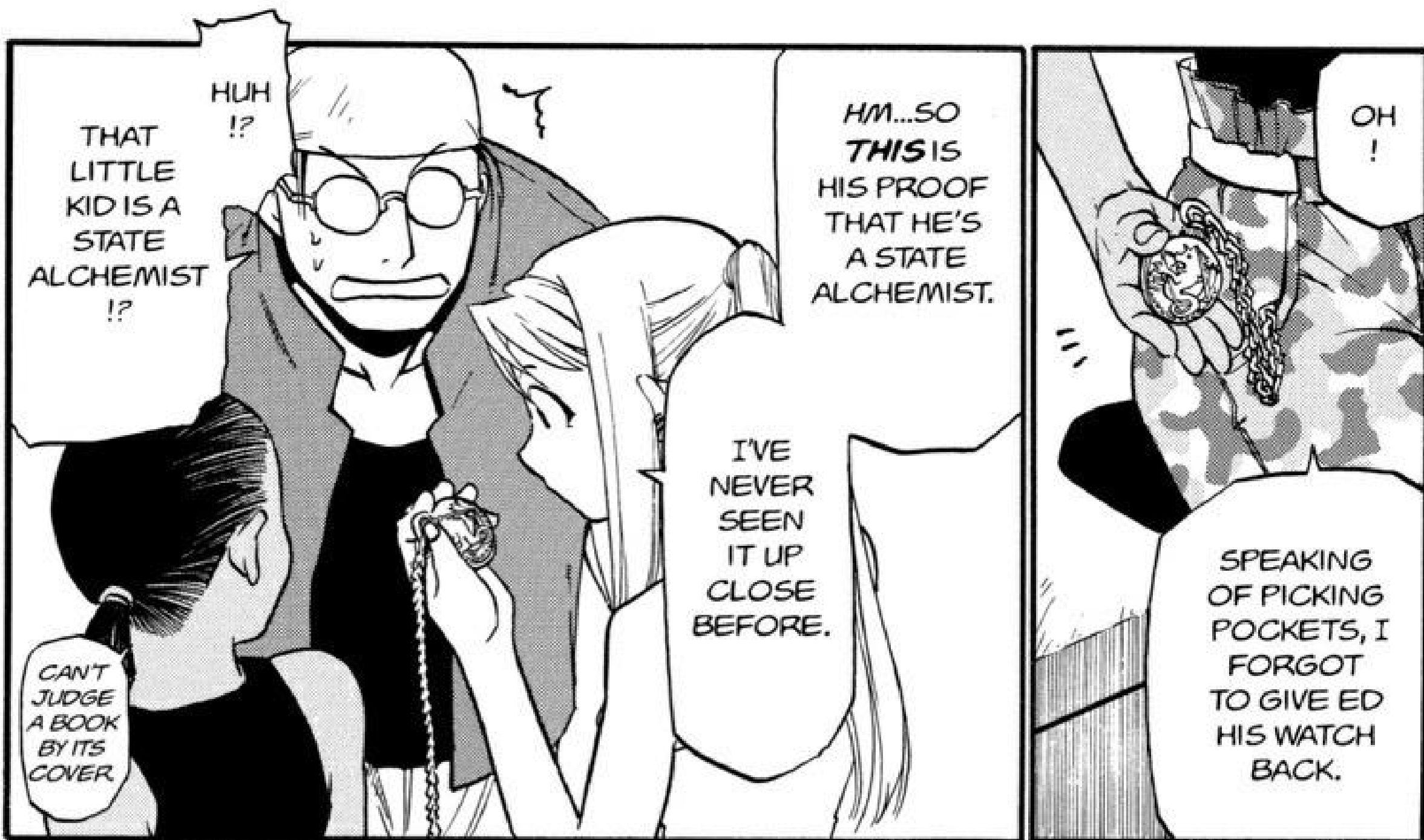
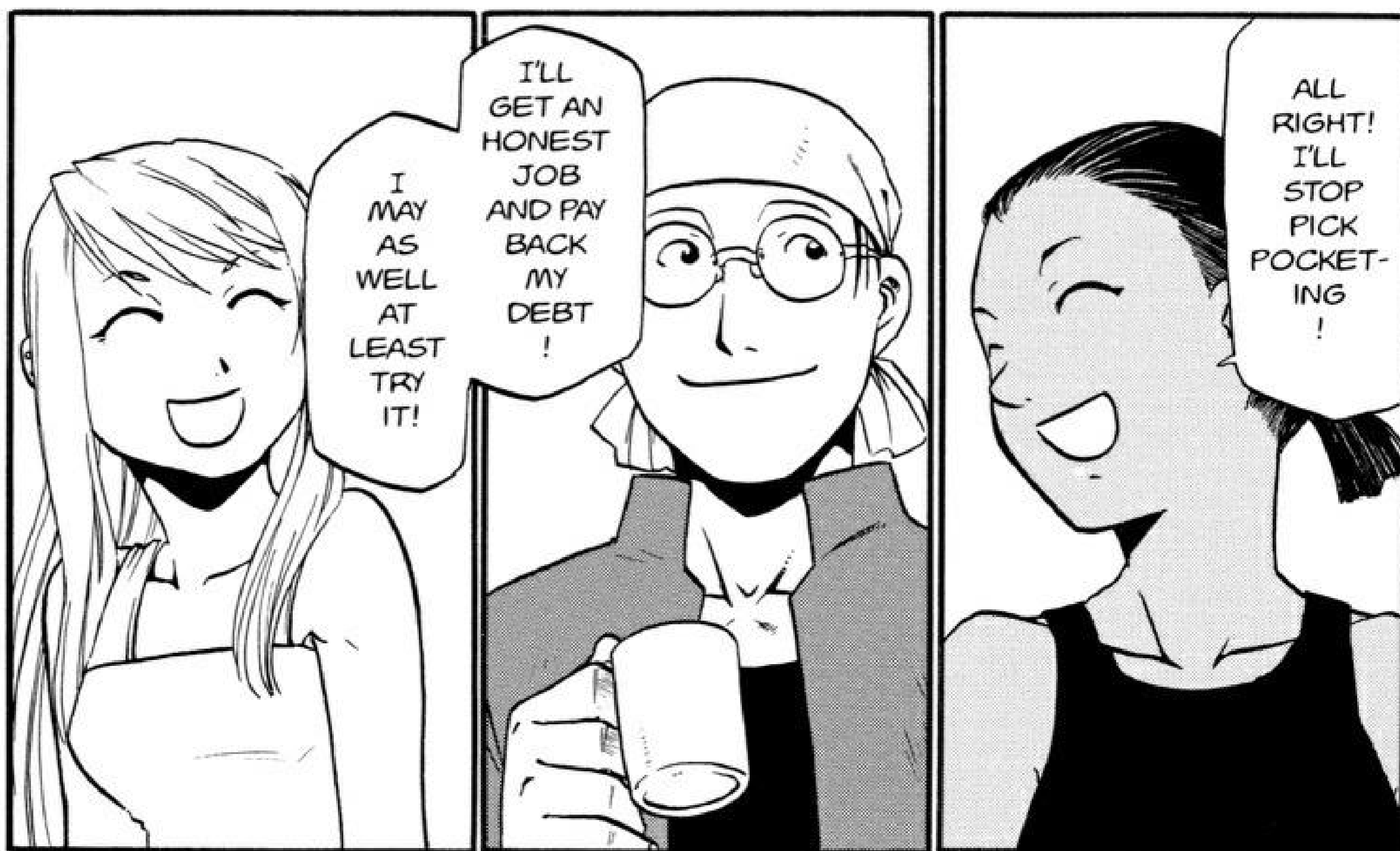
SO THAT'S WHY YOU KEEP COMING HERE. YOU'RE TRYING TO PAY OFF THAT DEBT IN INSTALLMENTS.

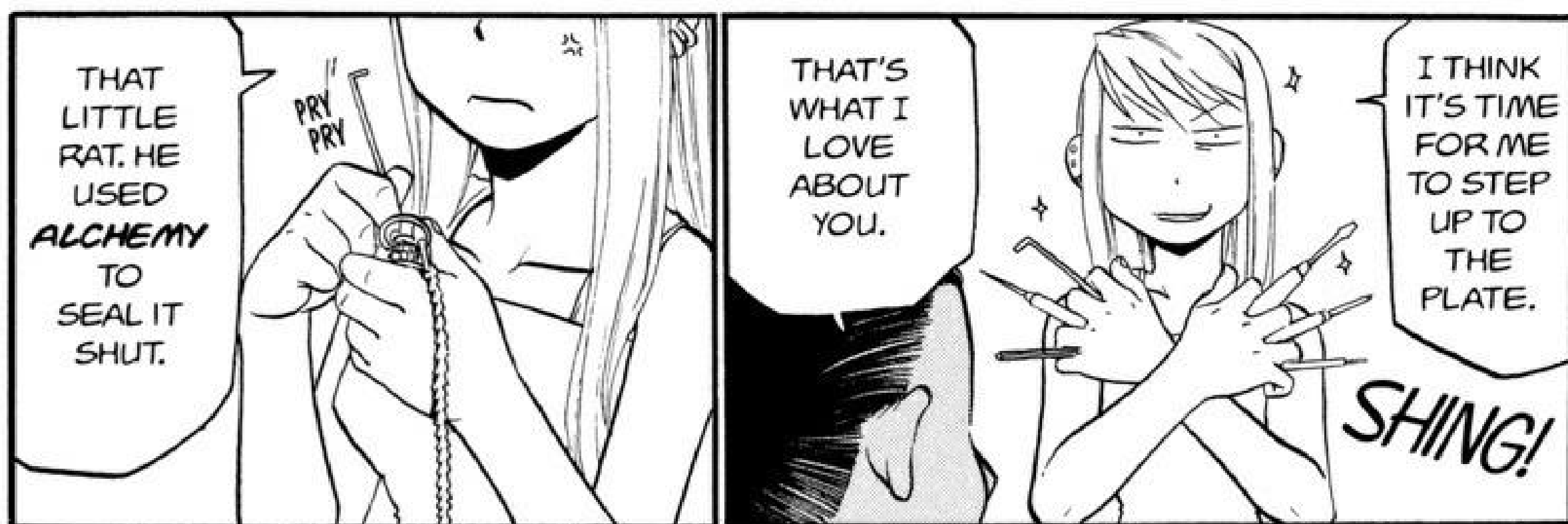
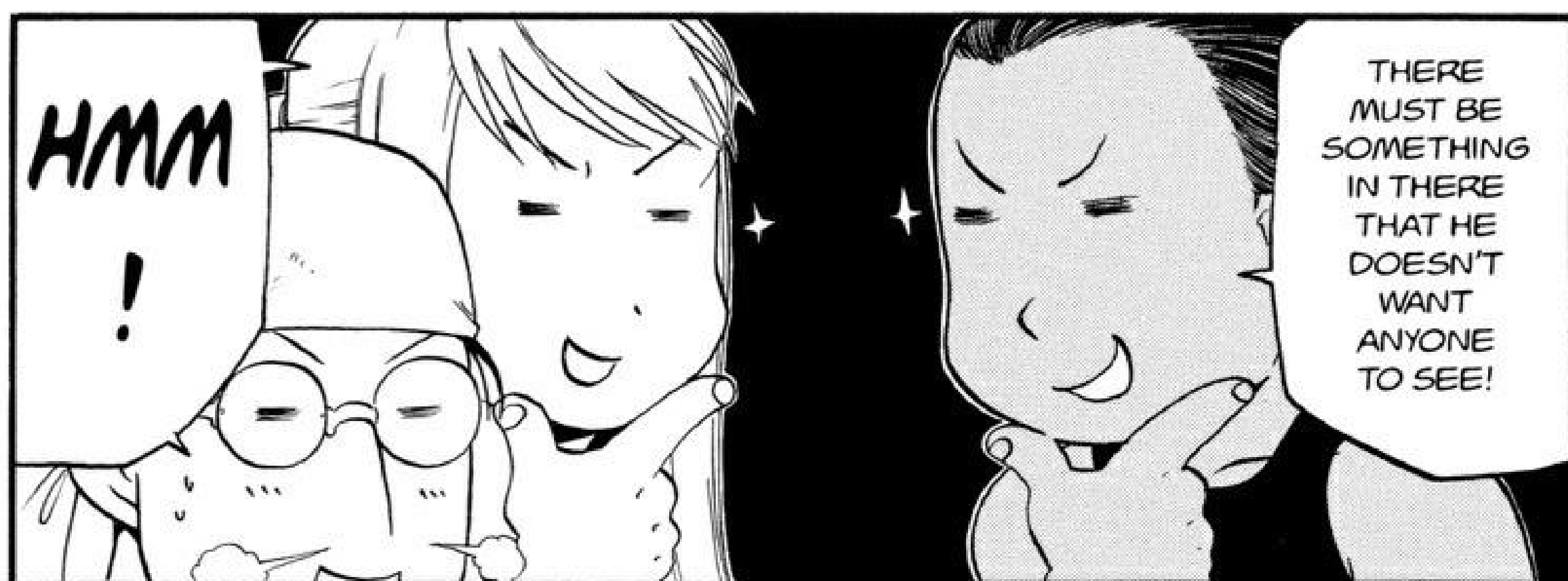
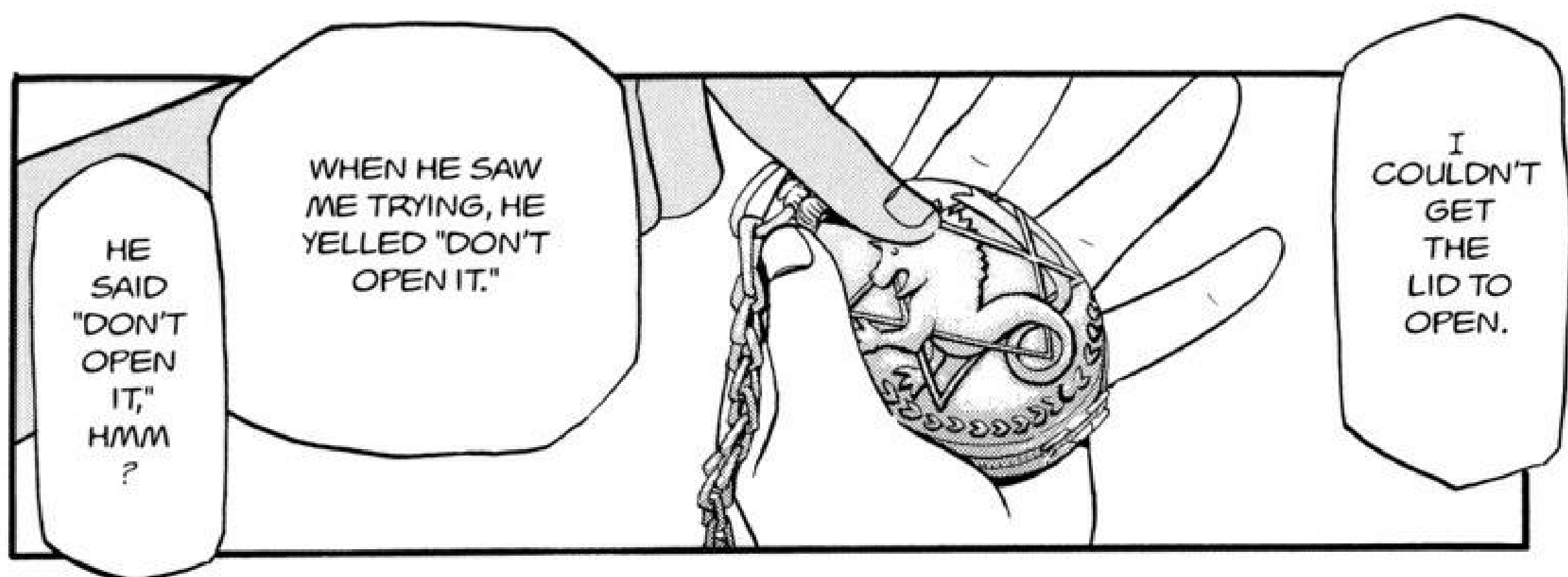
SHAAAAA

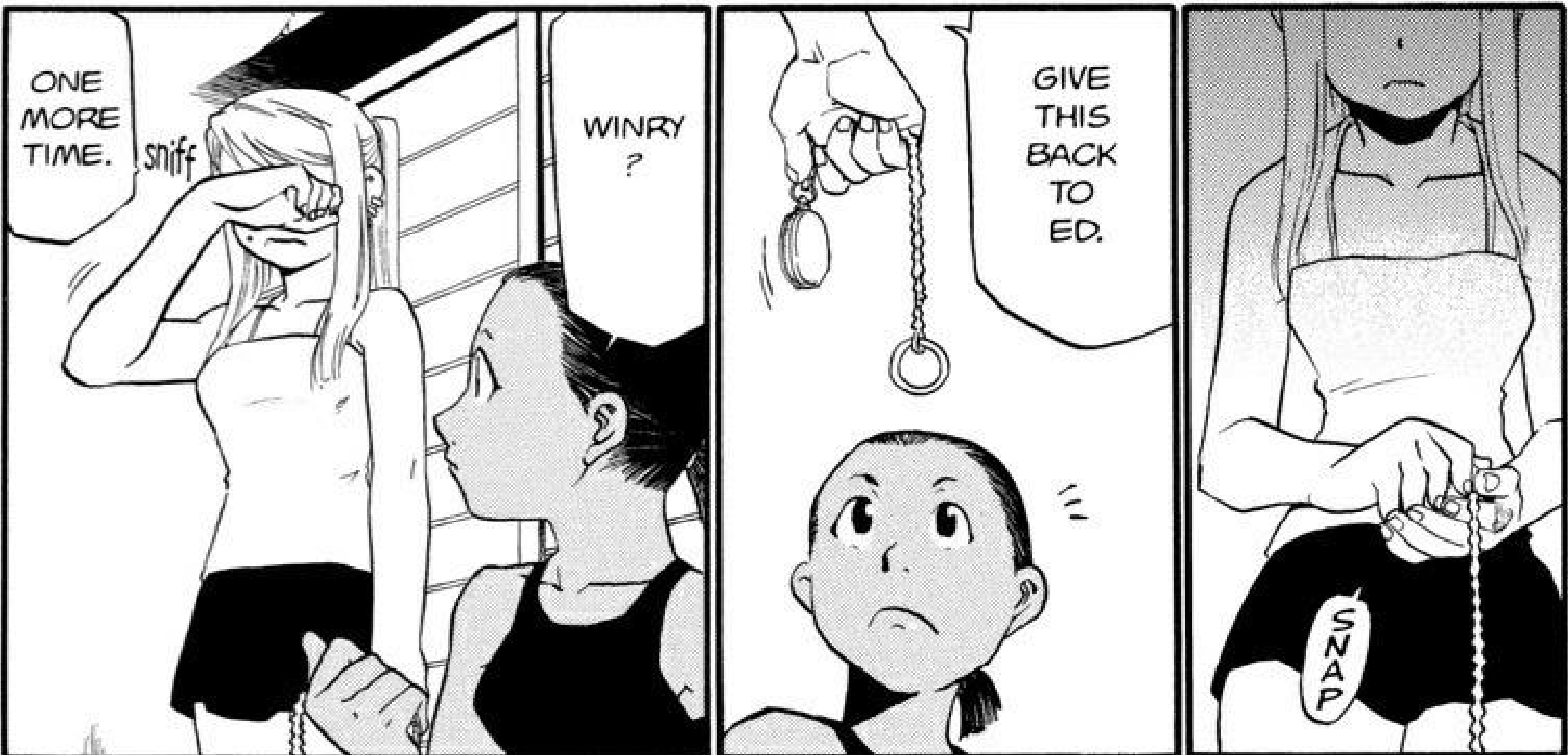
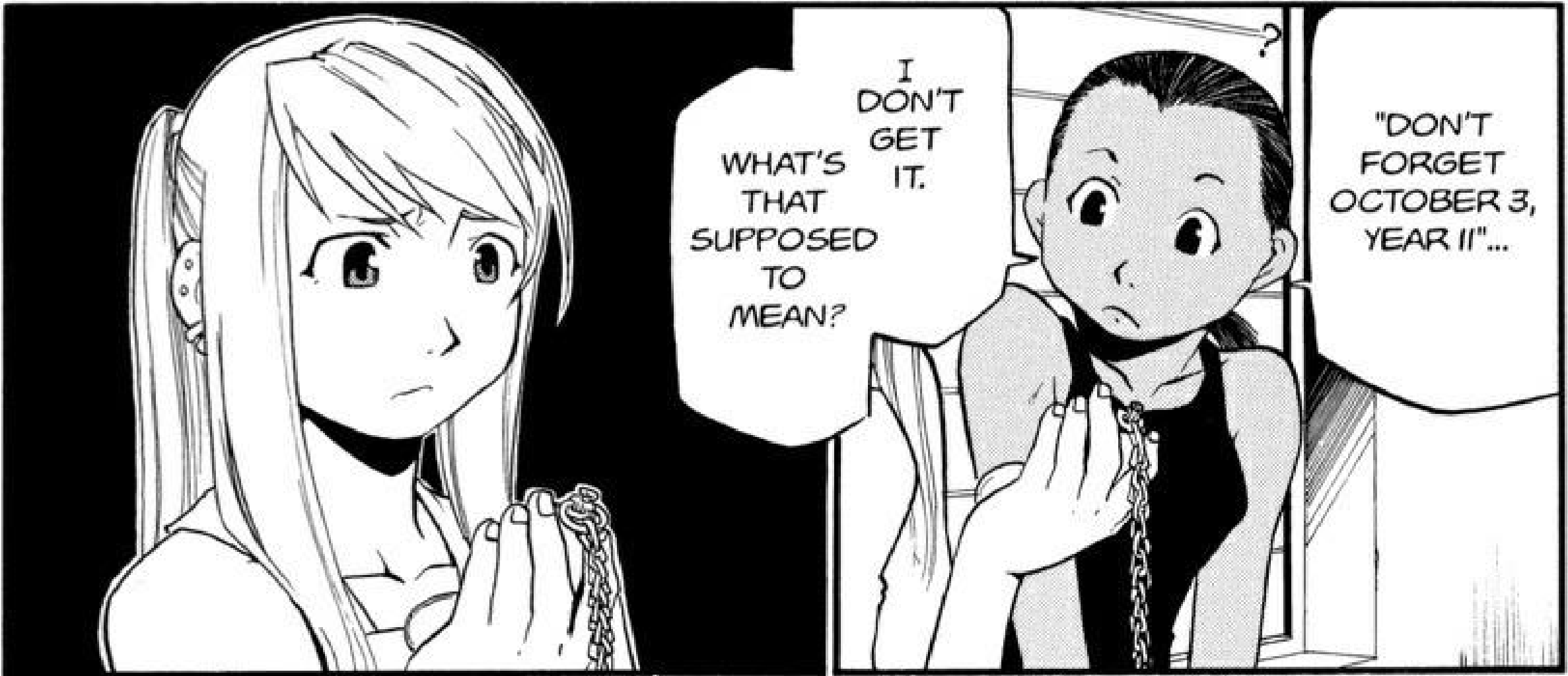
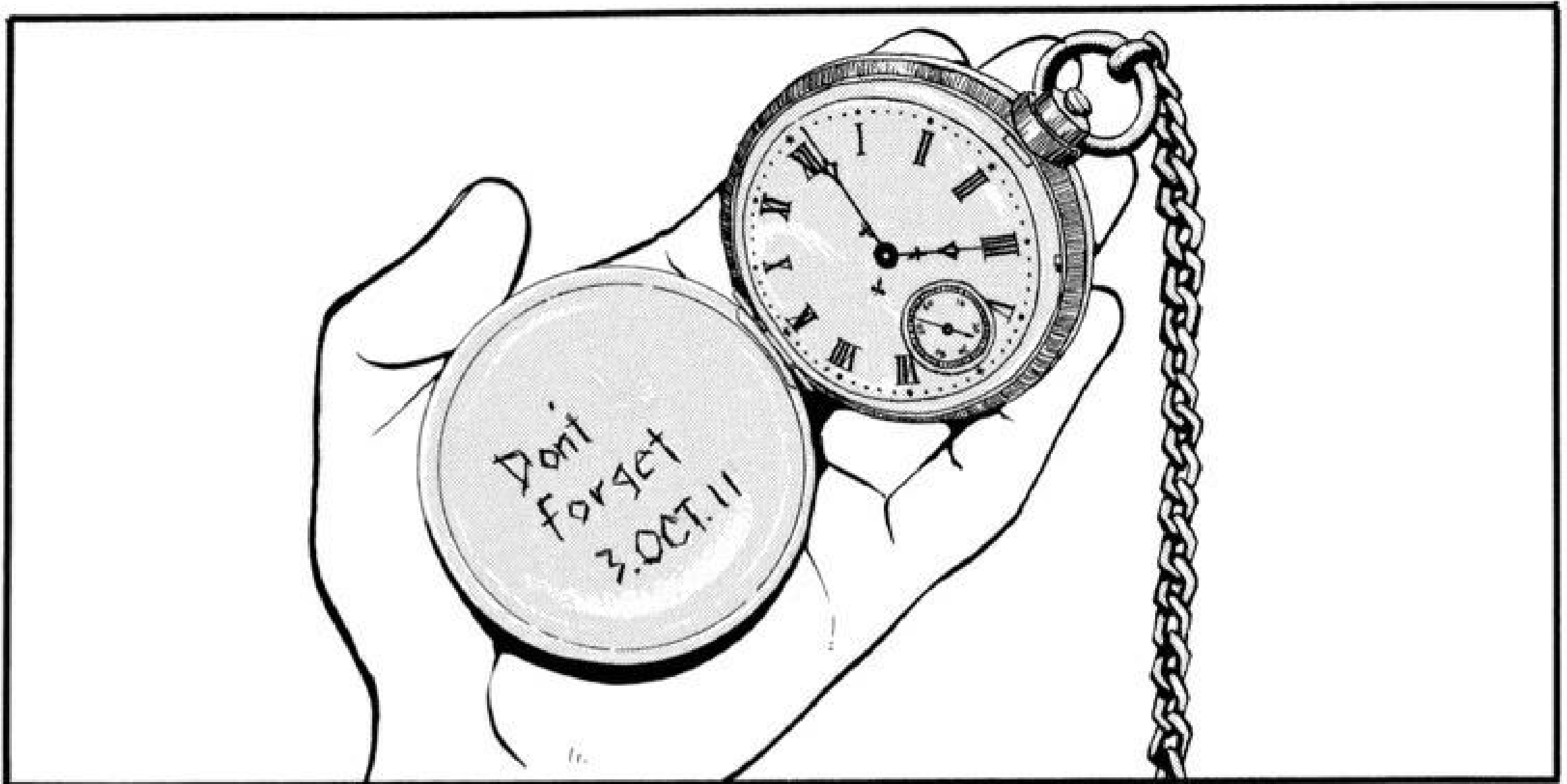


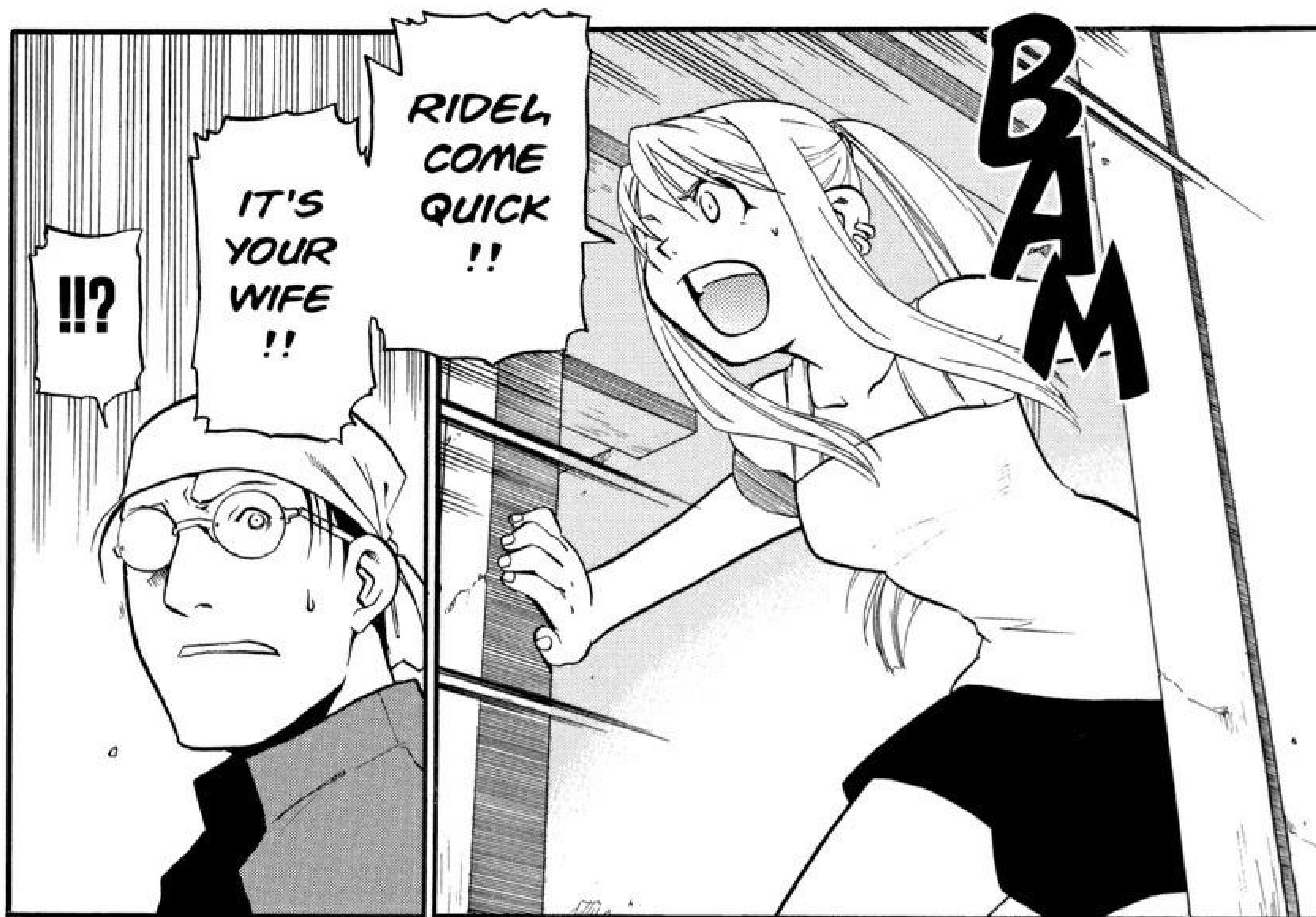
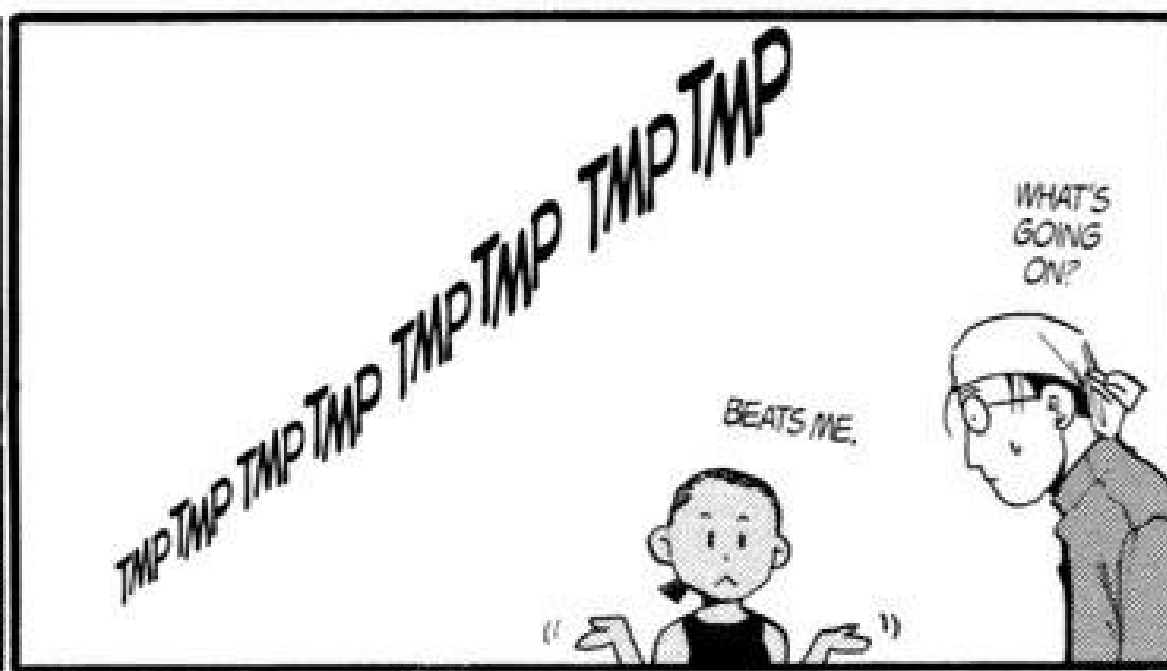
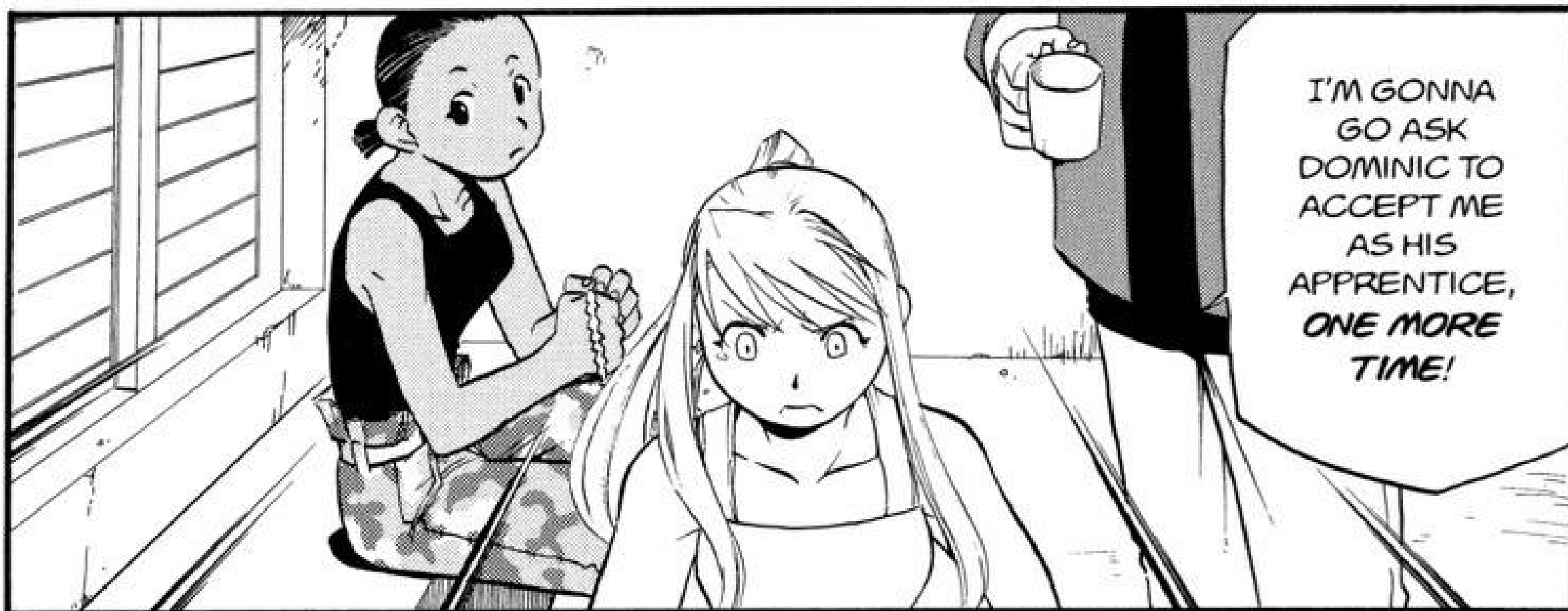
IF YOU **REALLY** APPRECIATE WHAT DOMINIC'S DONE FOR YOU, THEN **STOP PICK-POCKETING** !













PANIC PANIC PANIC PANIC

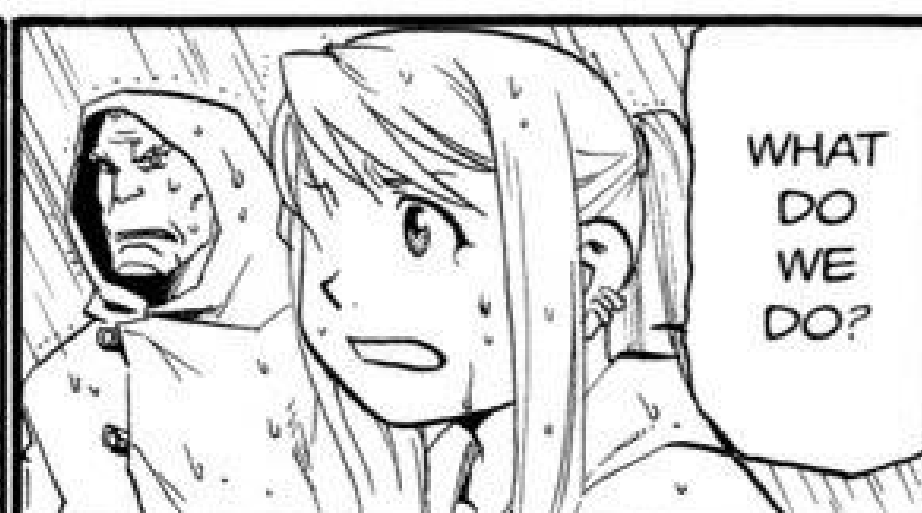






A
LIGHTNING
STRIKE...
!

GWOOSH



WHAT
DO
WE
DO?



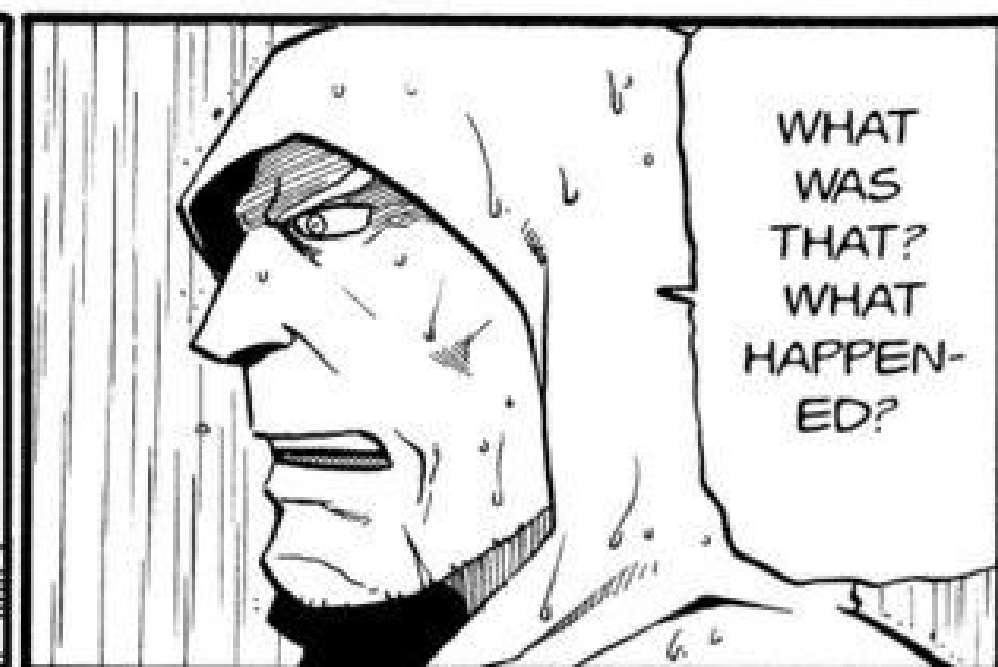
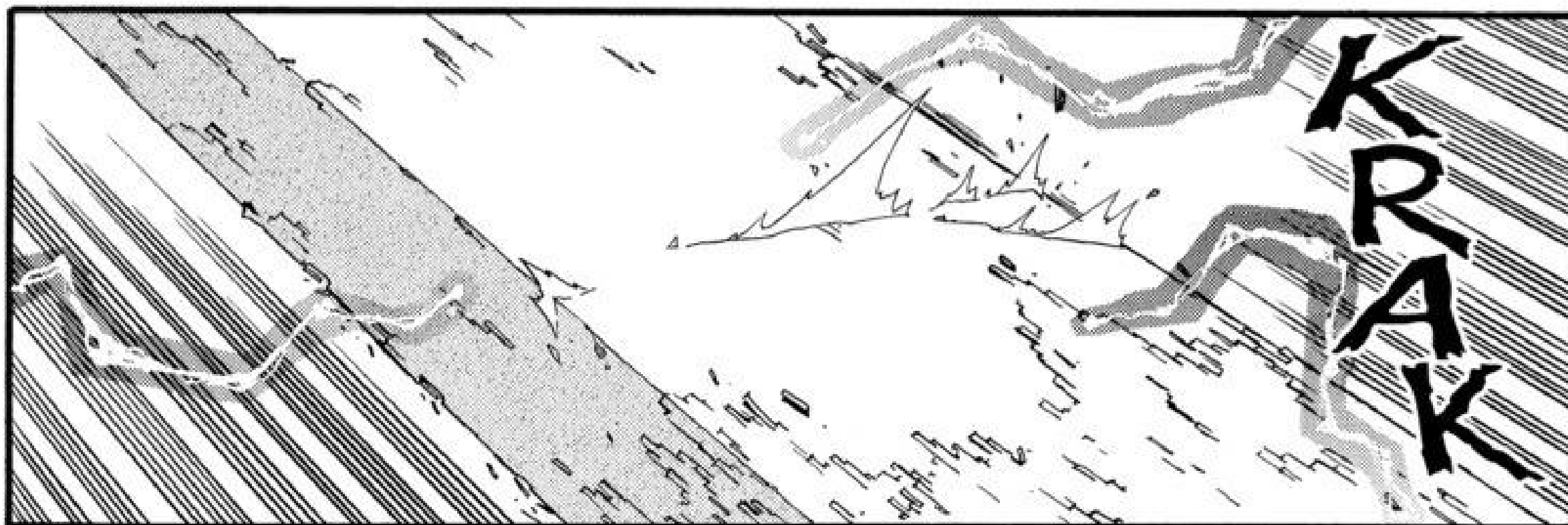
WHAT
ELSE
CAN
I
DO
!?



I'LL
DO
MY
BEST
!

BAM

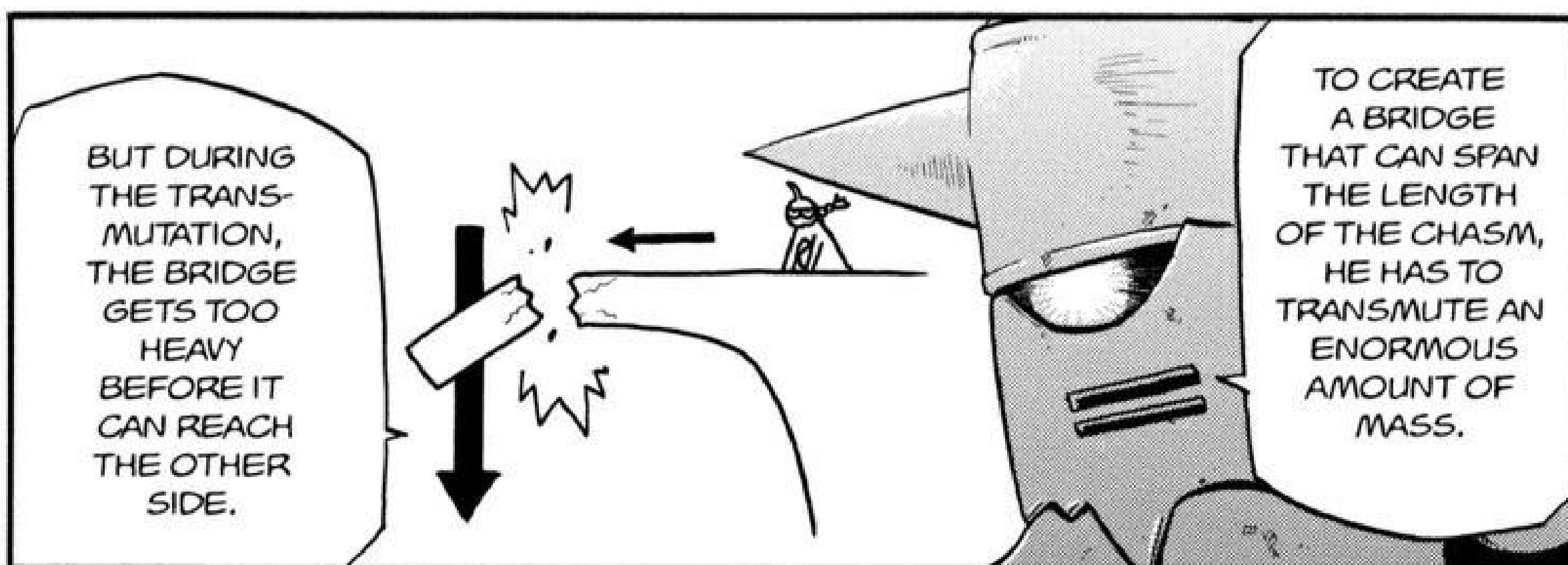






IT
COL-
LAPSED
UNDER
ITS
OWN
WEIGHT.

WHY DID
HE QUIT
HALFWAY
!?



BUT DURING
THE TRANS-
MUTATION,
THE BRIDGE
GETS TOO
HEAVY
BEFORE IT
CAN REACH
THE OTHER
SIDE.

TO CREATE
A BRIDGE
THAT CAN SPAN
THE LENGTH
OF THE CHASM,
HE HAS TO
TRANSMUTE AN
ENORMOUS
AMOUNT OF
MASS.



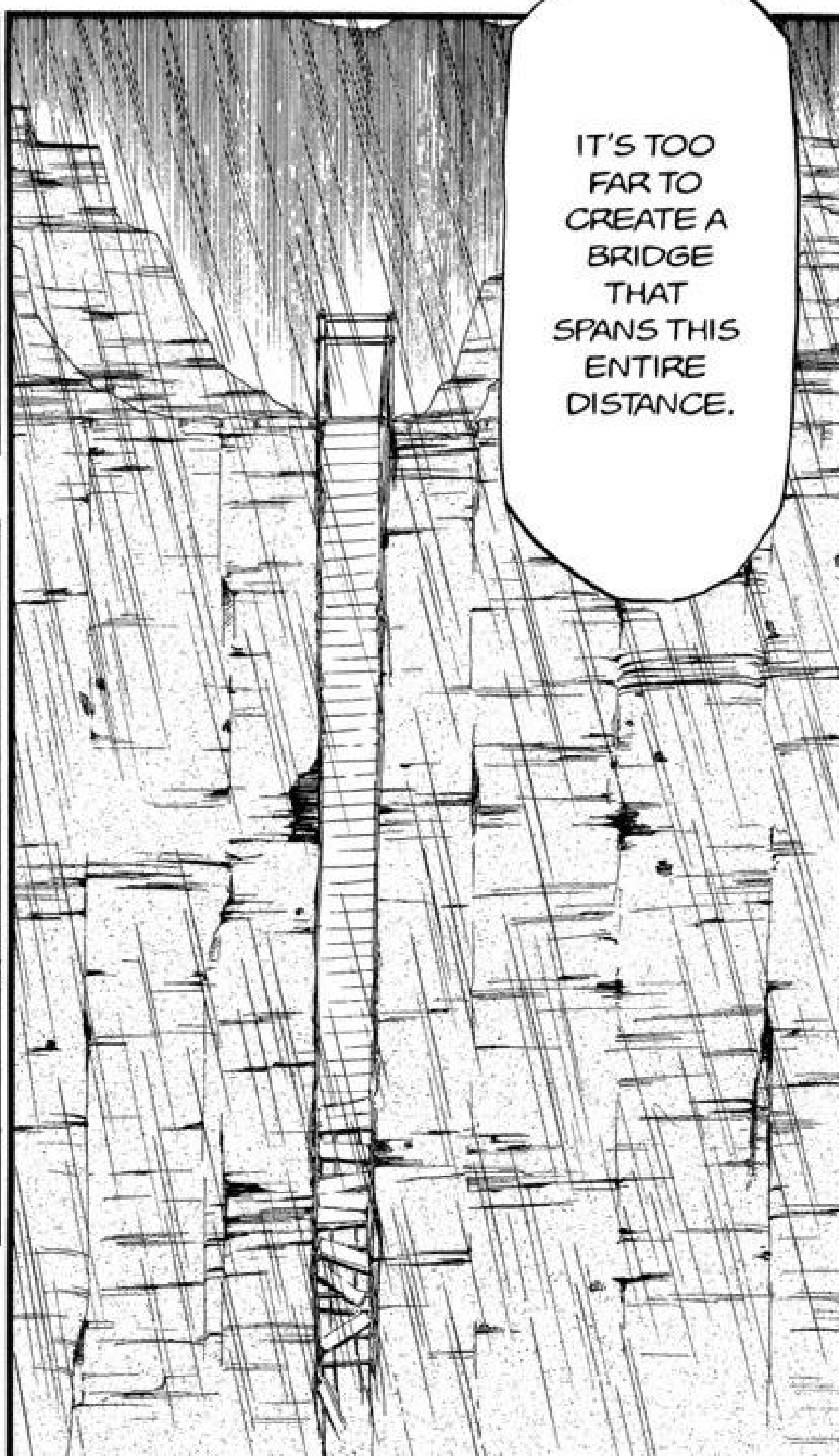
THINK...
THINK
!!

WHAT
CAN
I DO...
?



IF I
BUILT
A
BRIDGE
WITH
SUP-
PORTS...

THE TORRENT
OF WATER
BELOW WOULD
SWEEP IT
AWAY BEFORE
I FINISHED
TRANSMUTING.



IT'S TOO
FAR TO
CREATE A
BRIDGE
THAT
SPANS THIS
ENTIRE
DISTANCE.



...AND THEN THE WHOLE CLIFF WOULD CRUMBLE.

IF I TRIED TO BUILD SOMETHING THAT LARGE THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY GROUND LEFT TO STAND ON...

THEN THERE'S ALSO THE LAW OF CONSERVATION OF MASS.



WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WASTE ANY MORE TIME HERE.

THERE'S NO TIME. AND IT'S TOO DANGEROUS STANDING AROUND WITH ALL THIS LIGHTNING.

DAMN IT! ISN'T THERE ANY OTHER WAY!?

SHAAAAA



YOU ALL GO BACK TO THE HOUSE AND KEEP SATERA'S SPIRIT UP FOR ME.

IT'LL TAKE A LOT LONGER TO BRING THE DOCTOR BACK, BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE PICKY RIGHT NOW.

'ROUND THE OTHER WAY THERE'S AN OLD ROAD THAT LEADS TO A TOWN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN.







